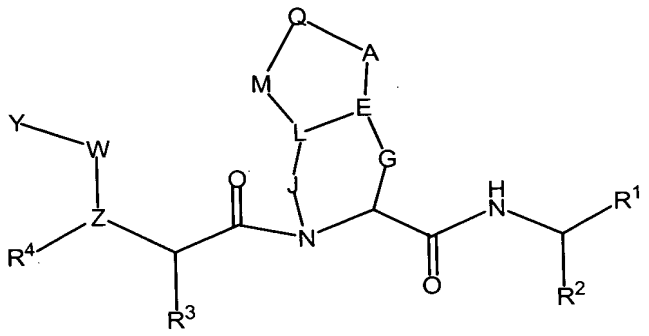
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound having the general structure shown in Formula I:



Formula I

wherein:

Y is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties: alkyl, alkyl-aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, aryl-heteroaryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, alkyl-aryloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkylamino, arylamino, alkyl-arylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, cycloalkylamino and heterocycloalkylamino, with the proviso that Y maybe optionally substituted with X^{11} or X^{12};

X^{11} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, alkylheteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl, with the proviso that X^{11} may be additionally optionally substituted with X^{12};

X^{12} is hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonamido, arylsulfonamido, carboxy, carbalkoxy,

carboxamido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonyloxy, alkylureido, arylureido, halogen, cyano, or nitro, with the proviso that said alkyl, alkoxy, and aryl may be additionally optionally substituted with moieties independently selected from X^{12};

R^1 is COR^5 or $B(OR)_2$, wherein R^5 is H, OH, OR^8, NR^9R^{10}, CF_3, C_2F_5, C_3F_7, CF_2R^6, R^6, or COR^7 wherein R^7 is H, OH, OR^8, CHR^9R^{10}, or NR^9R^{10} , wherein R^6, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCONR^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2R^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCH(OH)R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})R'$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})COO\ R^{11}$ and $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})\ CONR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$, $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, and R′ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyl-aryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, aryl-alkyl and heteroaralkyl;

Z is selected from O, N, CH or CR;

W may be present or absent, and if W is present, W is selected from C=O, C=S, C(=N-CN), or SO_2;

Q may be present or absent, and when Q is present, Q is CH, N, P, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CRR')_p$, O, NR, S, or SO_2; and when Q is absent, M may be present or absent; when Q and M are absent, A is directly linked to L;

A is O, CH_2, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, $(CRR')_p$, NR, S, or SO_2;

E is CH, N, CR, or a double bond towards A, L or G;

G may be present or absent, and when G is present, G is $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, or $(CRR')_p$; and when G is absent, J is present and E is directly connected to the carbon atom in Formula I as G is linked to;

J may be present or absent, and when J is present, J is $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, or $(CRR')_p$, SO_2, NH, NR or O; and when J is absent, G is present and E is directly linked to N shown in Formula I as linked to J;

L may be present or absent, and when L is present, L is CH, CR, O, S or NR; and when L is absent, then M may be present or absent; and if M is present with L being absent, then M is directly and independently linked to E, and J is directly and independently linked to E;

M may be present or absent, and when M is present, M is O, NR, S, SO_2, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$ $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, or $(CRR')_p$;

p is a number from 0 to 6; and

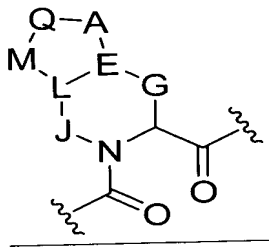
R, R', R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_{10} alkyl; C_2-C_{10} alkenyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl; C_3-C_8 heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro, halogen; (cycloalkyl)alkyl and (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, wherein said cycloalkyl is made of three to eight carbon atoms, and zero to six oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorus atoms, and said alkyl is of one to six carbon atoms; aryl; heteroaryl; alkyl-aryl; and alkyl-heteroaryl;

wherein said alkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and heterocycloalkyl moieties may be optionally and chemically-suitably substituted, with said term "substituted" referring to optional and chemically-suitable substitution with one or more moieties selected from the group

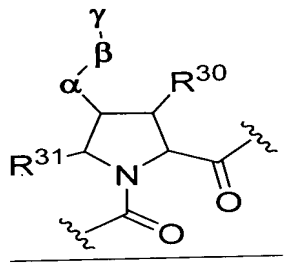
consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, halogen, hydroxy, thio, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro, sulfonamido, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfonyl urea, hydrazide, and hydroxamate;

further wherein said unit N-C-G-E-L-J-N represents a five-membered or six-membered cyclic ring structure with the proviso that when said unit N-C-G-E-L-J-N represents a five-membered cyclic ring structure, or when the bicyclic ring structure in Formula I comprising N, C, G, E, L, J, N, A, Q, and M represents a five-membered cyclic ring structure, then said five-membered cyclic ring structure lacks a carbonyl group as part of the cyclic ring;

provided that in Formula I when W is C=O and the moiety:



represents the structure:



where R^{30} and R^{31} are independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryalkyl, with R^{30} and R^{31} being optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, heterocyclyl,

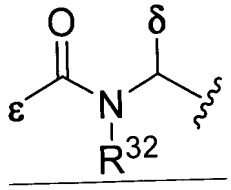
heterocyclyloxy, heterocycylalkyl, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, alkanoylamino, aroylalmino, aralkanoylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, formyl, acetyl, sulfonyl, or sulfonamido, wherein said R^{33} substituents can be optionally substituted with alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, fomryl, sulfonyl or sulfonamido;

α is a bond, $-C(H)(R^{34})-$, -O-, -S-, or $-N(R^{35})-$, where R^{34} is H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents, and R^{35} is H, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkanoyl, $-C(O)R^{36}$, $-SO_2R^{36}$, or carboxamido and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents, or R^{35} and γ together with the atoms to which they are bound, form a nitrogen containing mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents, and R^{36} is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl;

β is a bond, -CH2-, -C(O)-, -C(O)C(O)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, OR $-S(O)R^{34}$;

γ is alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, $-OR^{37}$ or $-N(R^{37})_2$, wherein any carbon atom is optionally substituted with R^{33}, wherein R^{37} is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkenyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, wherein any carbon of R^{37} is optionally substituted with R^{33};

then Y is not the moiety:

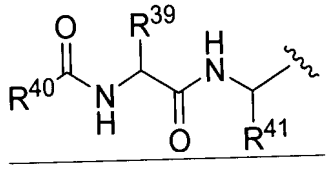


where R^{32} is H or C1-3 alkyl;

δ is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents; and

ε is $-R^{38}$, -alkyl-R^{38}, -alkenyl-R^{38}, alkynyl-R^{38}, $-OR^{38}$, $-N(R^{38})_2$, $-C(O)R^{38}-$,

$-C(=NOalkyl)R^{38}$, or the moiety:



where R^{38} is H, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylidenyl, heterocyclyl, heterocycloalkylidenyl or heteroaryl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents, or a first R^{38} and a second R^{38}, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound, form a nitrogen containing mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents; R^{39} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents; R^{40} is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl; and R^{41} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 R^{33} substituents; and

provided that the proline at the P2 position is modified, wherein the P2 position is the position corresponding to the second amino acid from the keto amide group.

2. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is COR^5, and R^5 is H, OH, $COOR^8$, or $CONR^9R^{10}$.

3. (original) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^1 is $COCONR^9R^{10}$, and R^9 is H, R^{10} is H, R^{14}, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCONR^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2R^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2N\ R^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})\ CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$, wherein R^{14} is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyl-aryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, aryl-alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or heteroaralkyl.

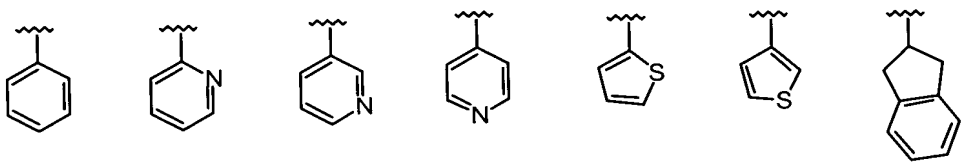
4. (original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R^{10} is H, R^{14}, $CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})SO_2R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})SO_2N\ R^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})COR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})\ CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H or alkyl, and $R^{2'}$ is phenyl, substituted phenyl, hetero atom-substituted phenyl, thiophenyl, cycloalkyl, piperidyl or pyridyl.

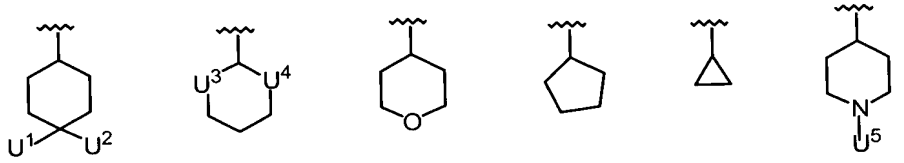
5. (original) The compound of claim 4, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H.

6. (original) The compound of claim 5, wherein R^{11} is H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, *tert*-butyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, α,α-dimethylbenzyl, 1-methylcyclopropyl or 1-methylcyclopentyl;

R′ is hydroxymethyl or $CH_2CONR^{12}R^{13}$;

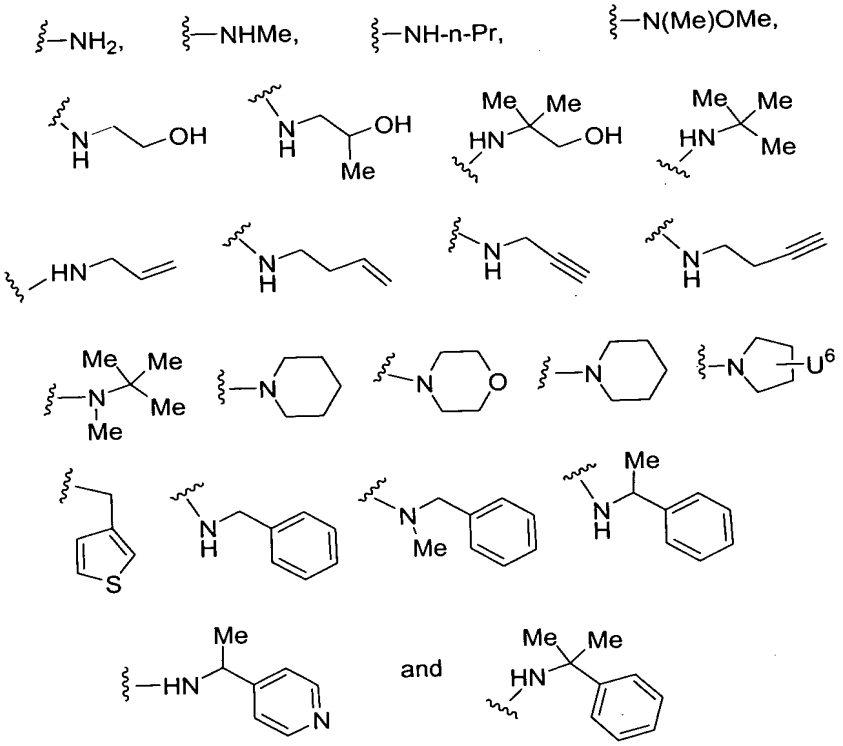
$R^{2'}$ is independently selected from the group consisting of:





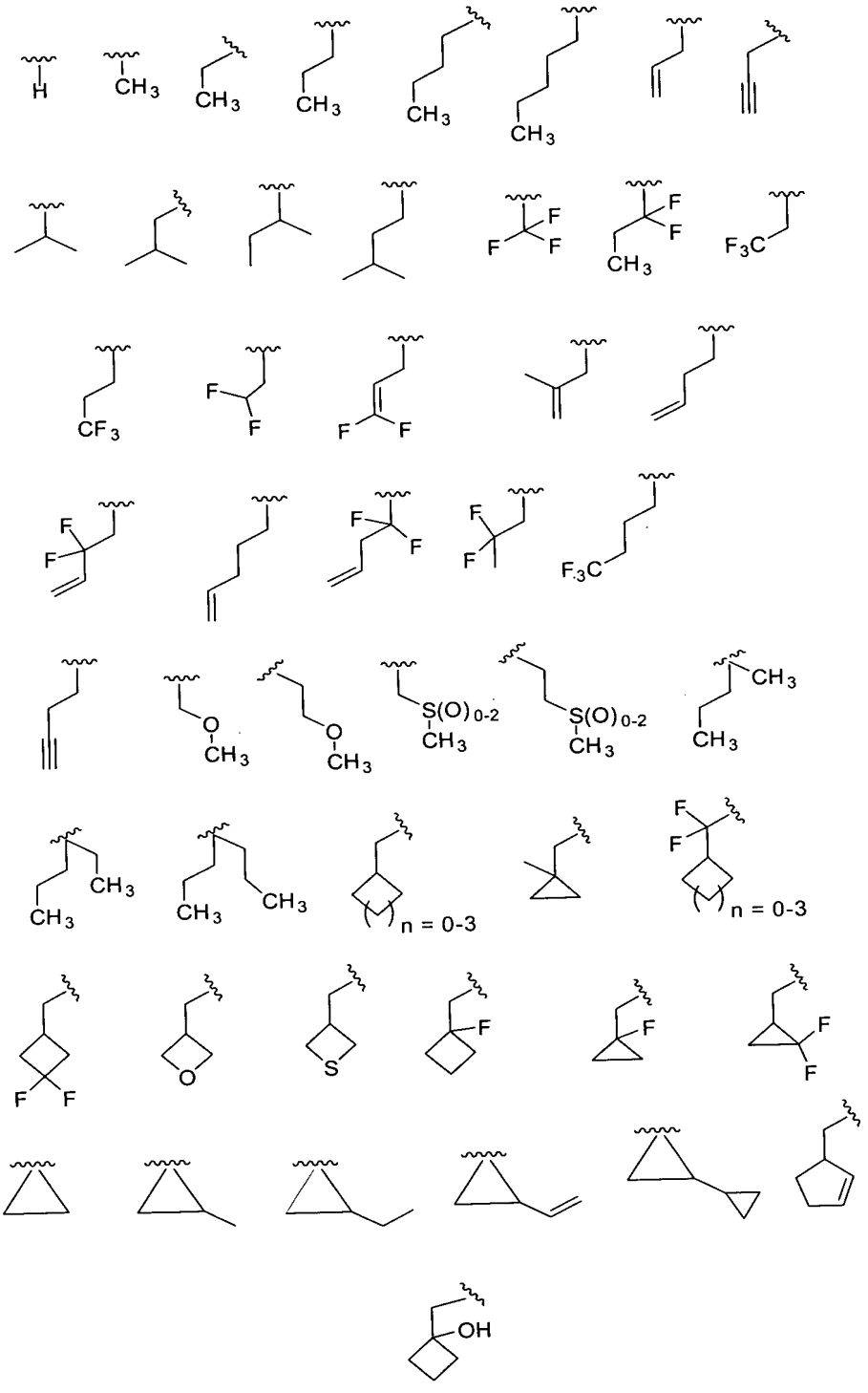
wherein:

U^1 and U^2 maybe same or different and are selected from H, F, CH_2COOH, CH_2COOMe, CH_2CONH_2, $CH_2CONHMe$, CH_2CONMe_2, azido, amino, hydroxyl, substituted amino, substituted hydroxyl;
U^3 and U^4 maybe same or different and are selected from O and S;
U^5 is selected from the moieties consisting of alkyl sulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, heteroalkyl sulfonyl, heteroaryl sulfonyl, alkyl carbonyl, aryl carbonyl, heteroalkyl carbonyl, heteroaryl carbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, heteroarylaminocarbonyl or a combination thereof;
and $NR^{12}R^{13}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

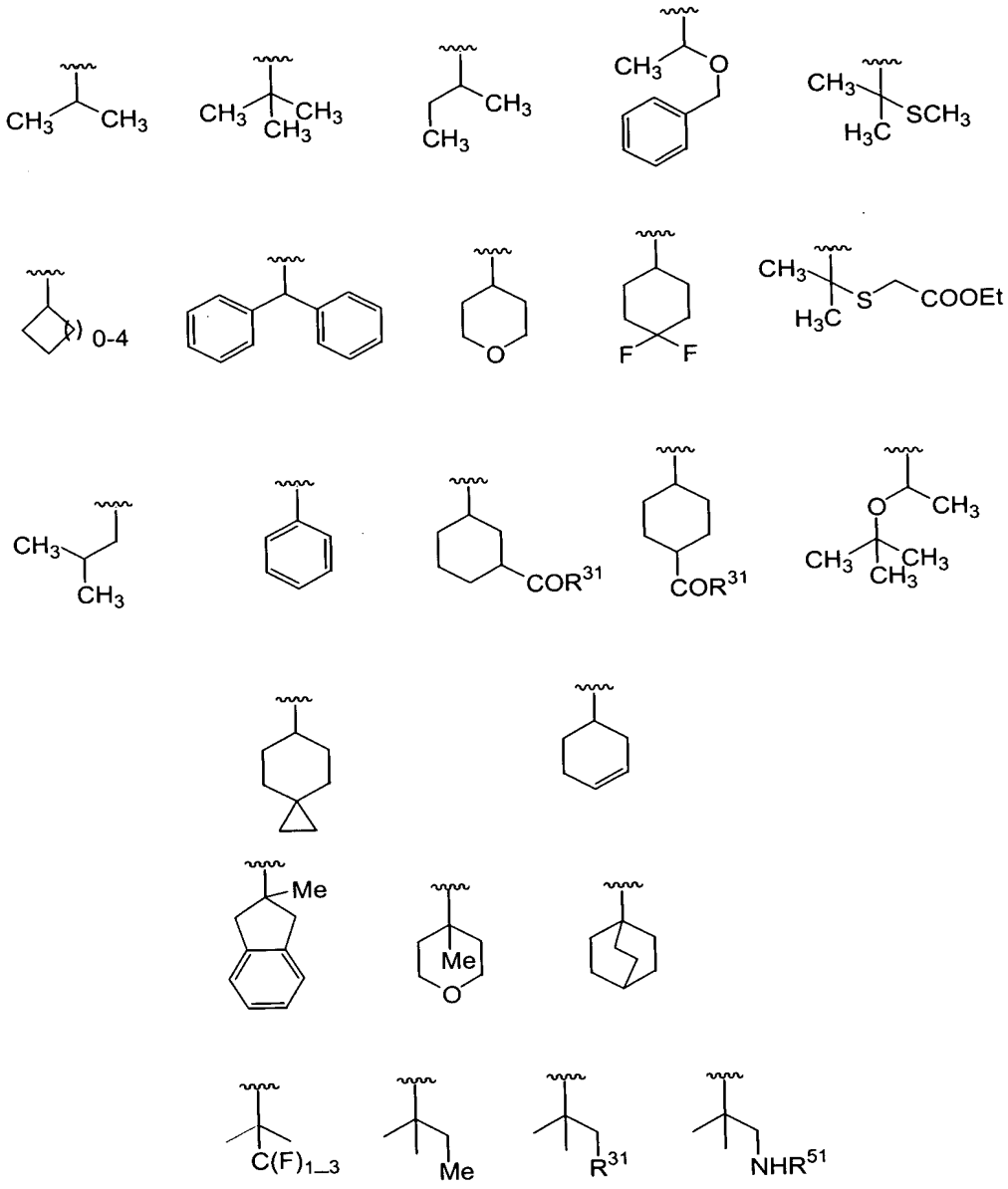


wherein U^6 is H, OH, or CH_2OH, and
R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of: H, Me, Et, *n*-propyl, methoxy, cyclopropyl, *n*-butyl, 1-but-3-ynyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, phenethyl, allyl, 1-but-3-enyl, OMe, cyclopropylmethyl.

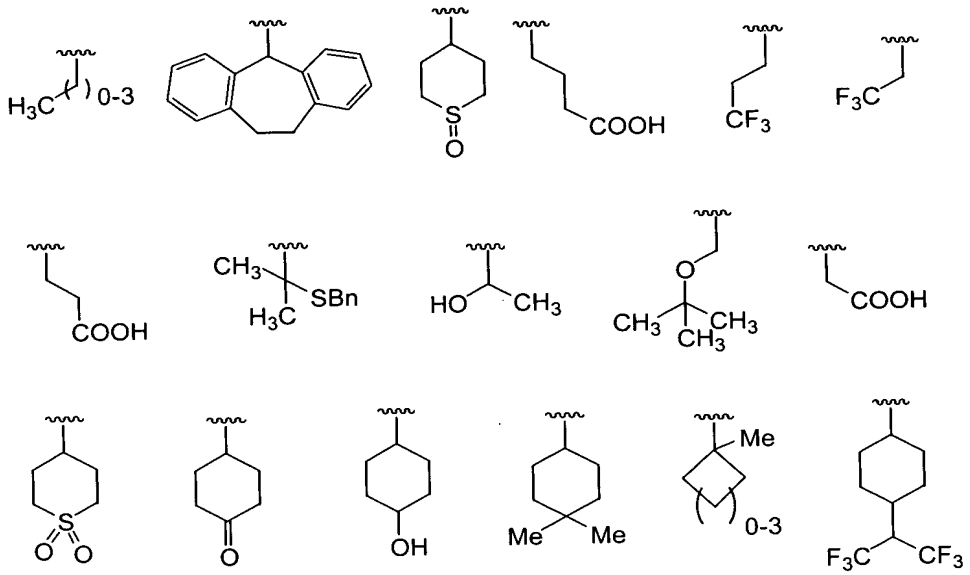
7. (original) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties:



8. (original) The compound of claim 7, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of:

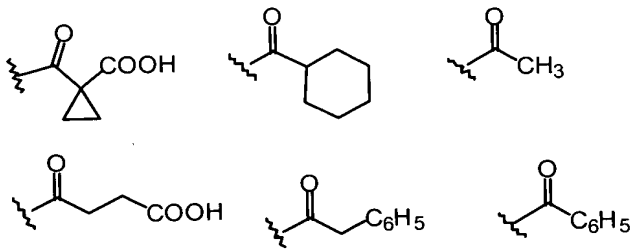


wherein R^{51} = H, $COCH_3$, COOtBu or CONHtBu

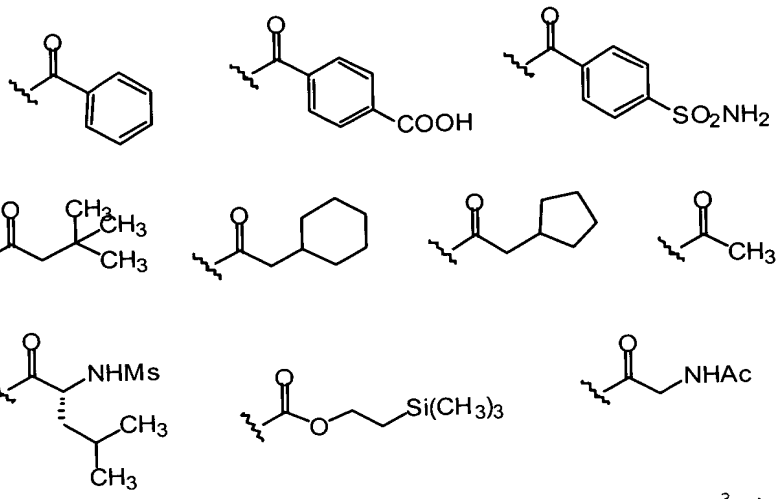


wherein R^{31} = OH or O-alkyl;

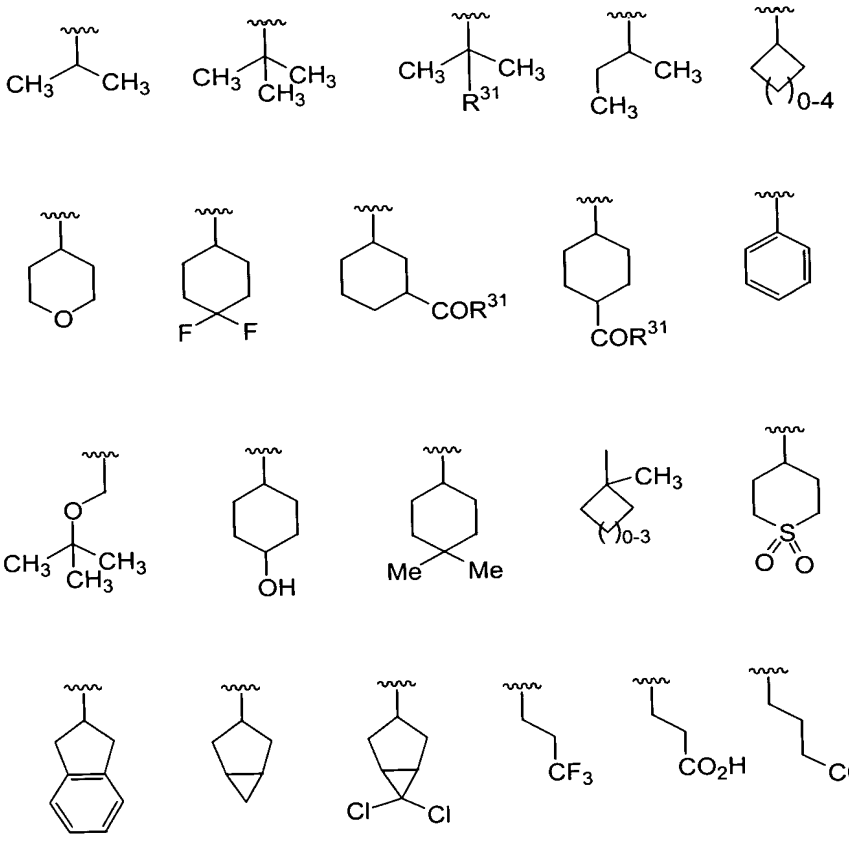
Y^{19} is selected from the following moieties:



and Y^{20} is selected from the following moieties:



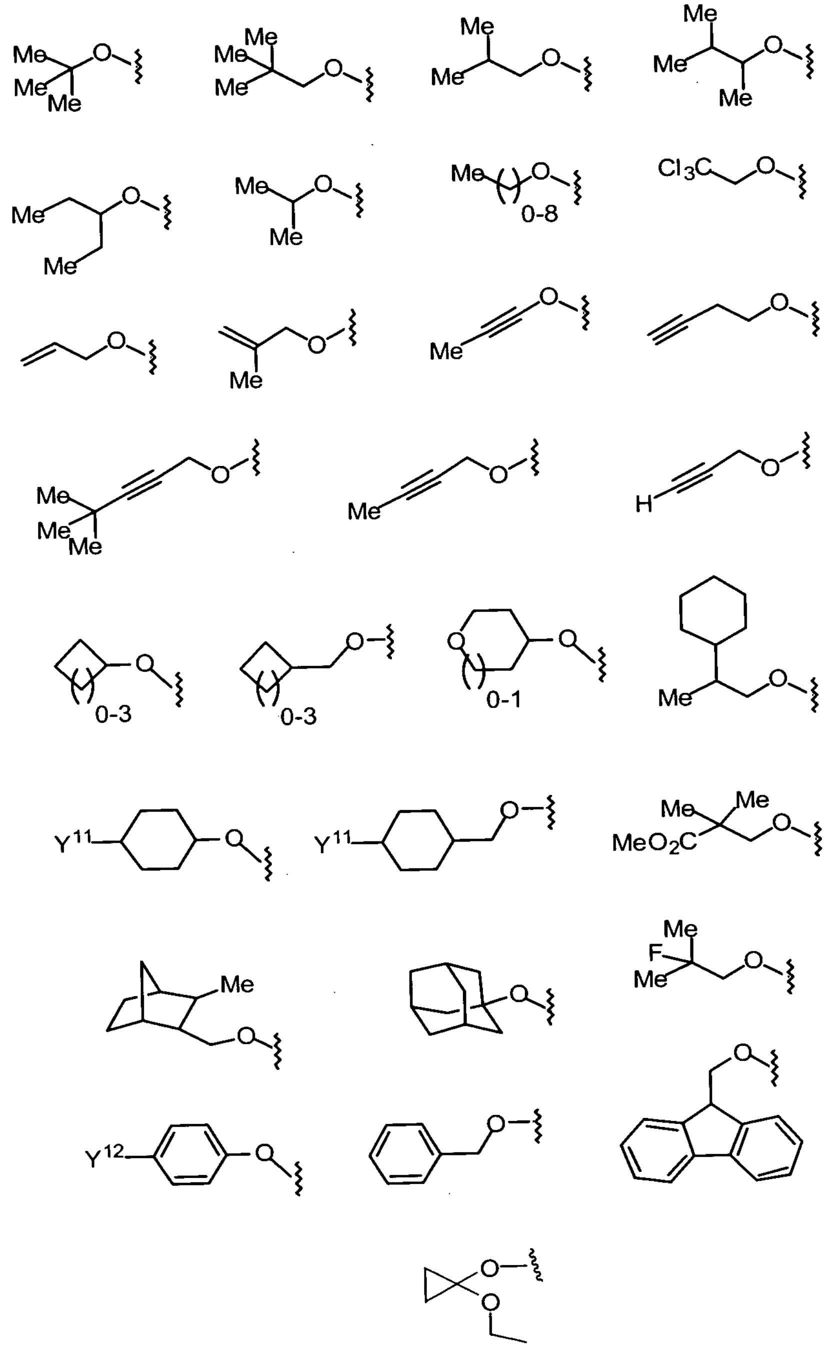
9. (original) The compound of claim 8, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties:

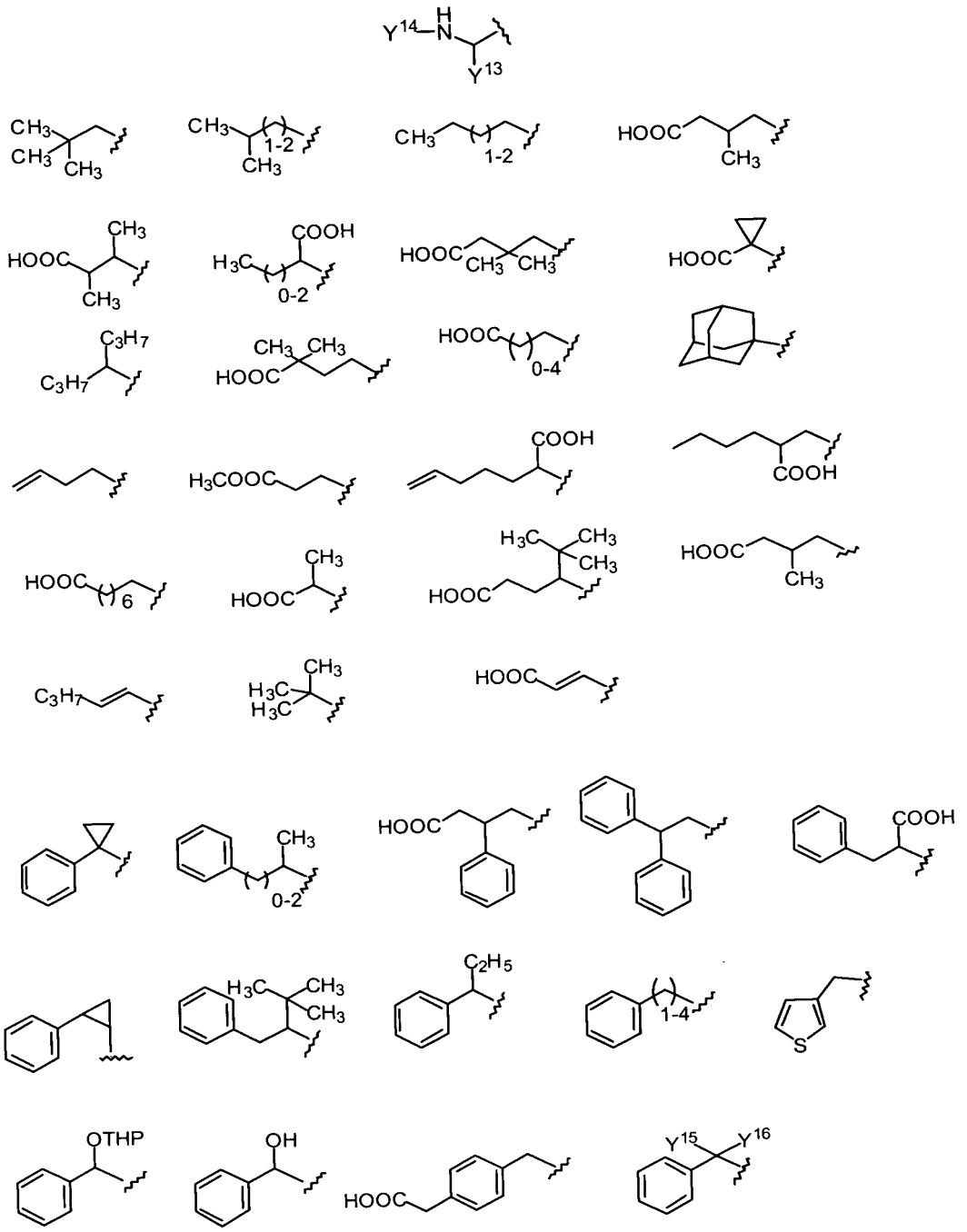


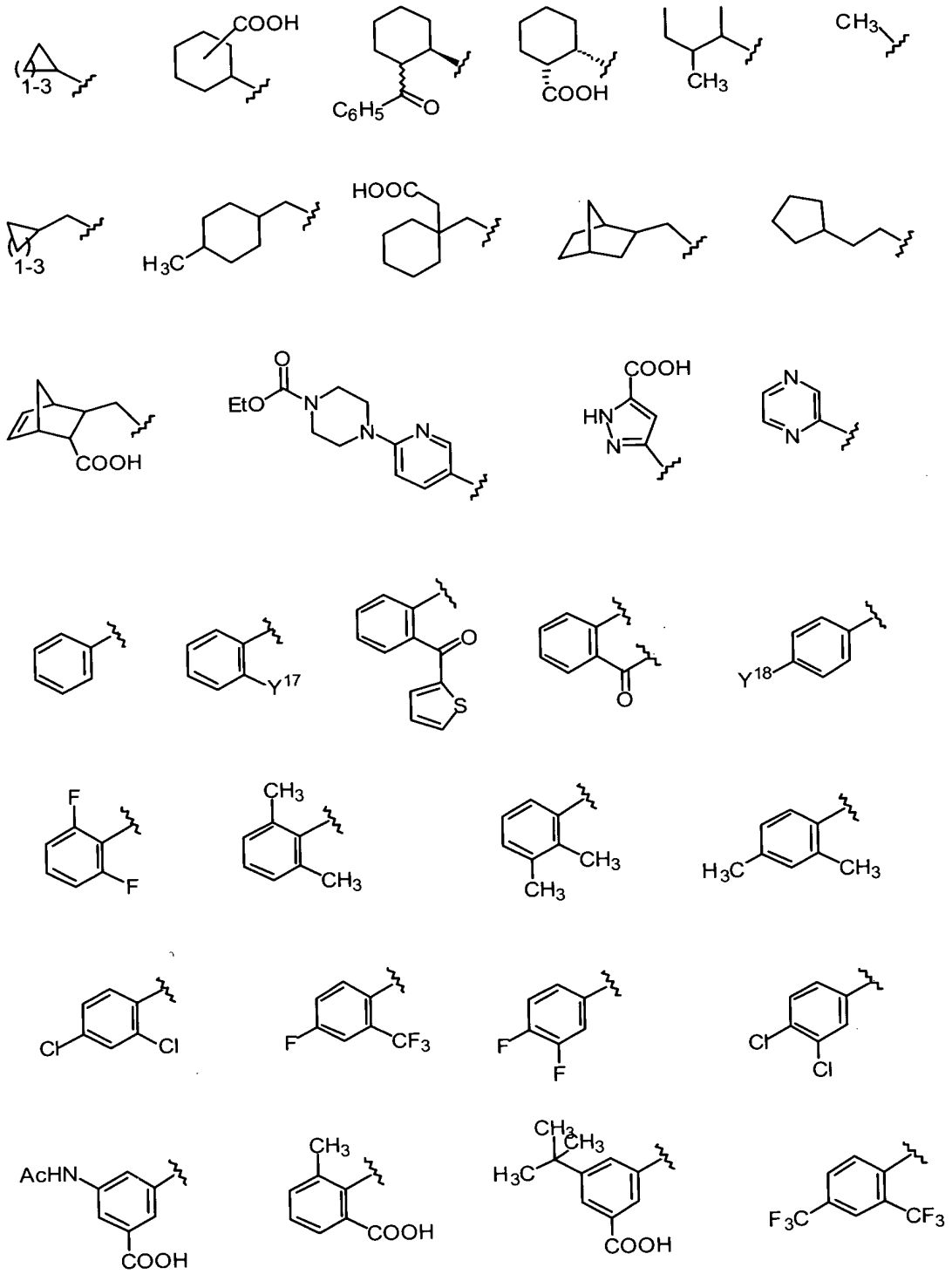
10. (original) The compound of claim 9, wherein Z is N and R^4 is H.

11. (original) The compound of claim 10, wherein W is C=O.

12. (original) The compound of claim 11, wherein Y is selected from the following moieties:



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C6H5
O
COOH
CH3
CH3
1-3
H3C
HOOC
COOH
EtO
O
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N
N
COOH
HN
N
N
N
Y17
O
S
O
Y18
F
F
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
H3C
CH3
Cl
Cl
F
CF3
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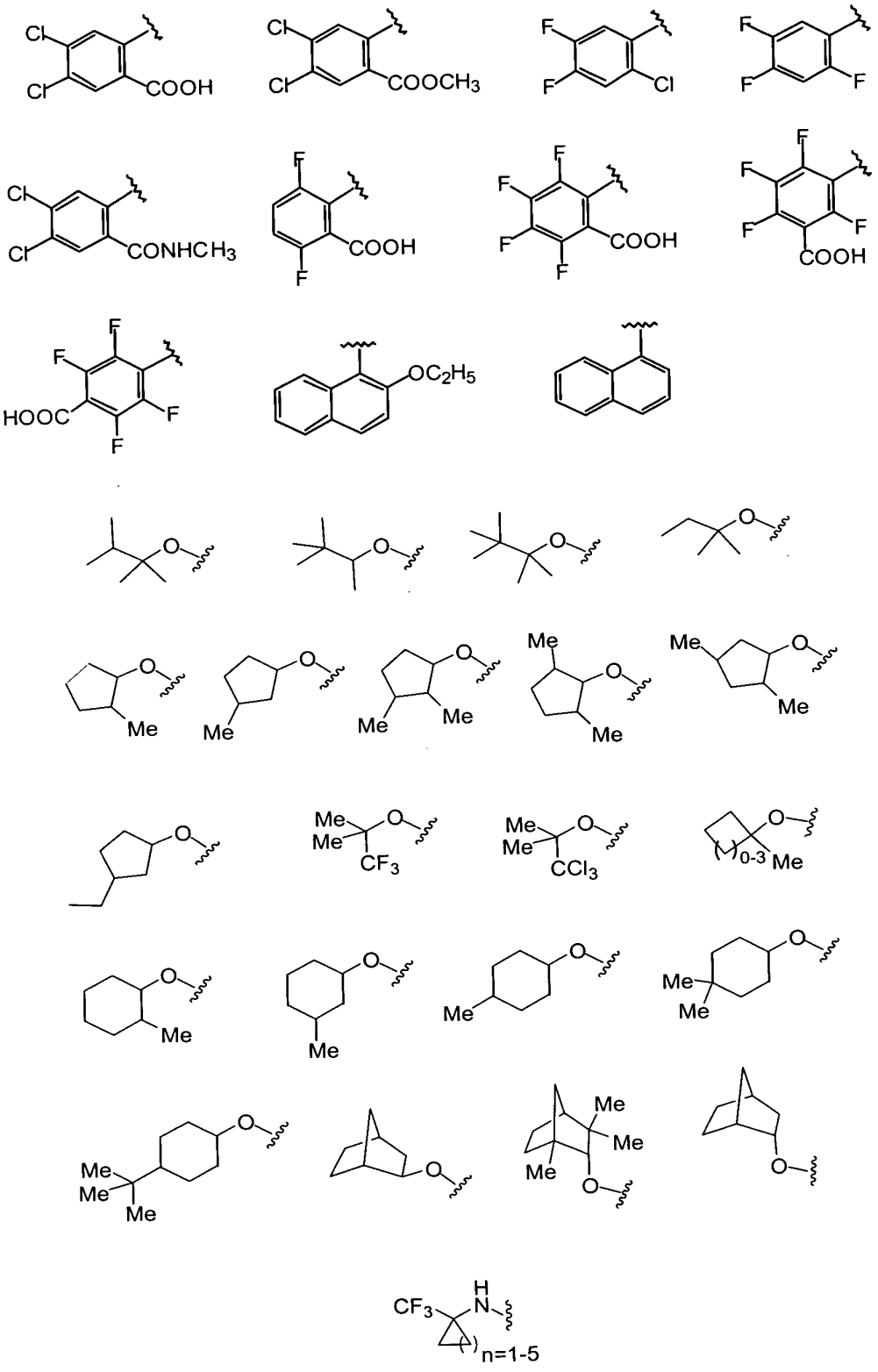
CH3
H3C
COOH
F3C
CF3


Cl
Cl
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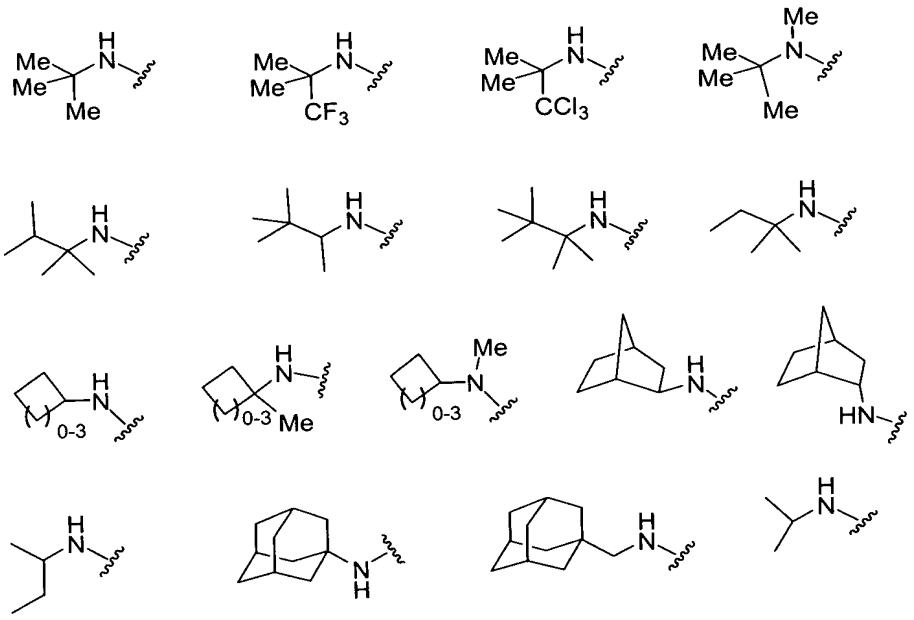
CF3
H
N
n=1-5

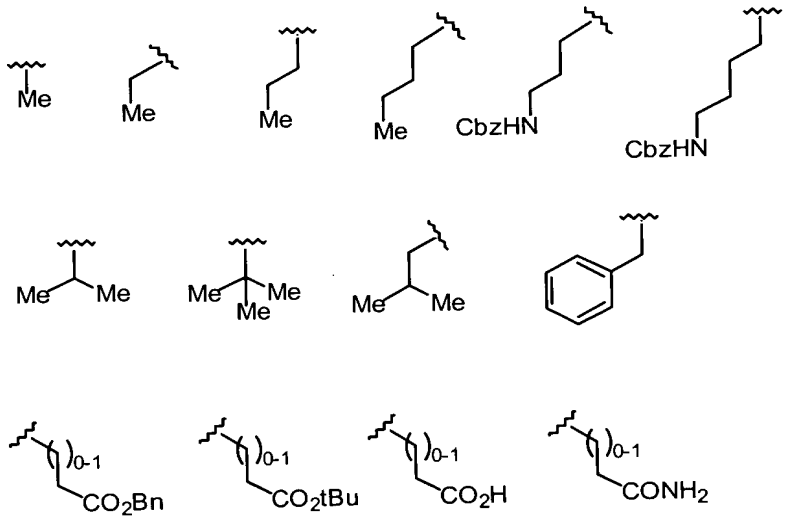


wherein:

Y^{11} is selected from H, COOH, COOEt, OMe, Ph, OPh, NHMe, NHAc, NHPh, $CH(Me)_2$, 1-triazolyl, 1-imidazolyl, and $NHCH_2COOH$;

Y^{12} is selected from H, COOH, COOMe, OMe, F, Cl, or Br;

Y^{13} is selected from the following moieties:



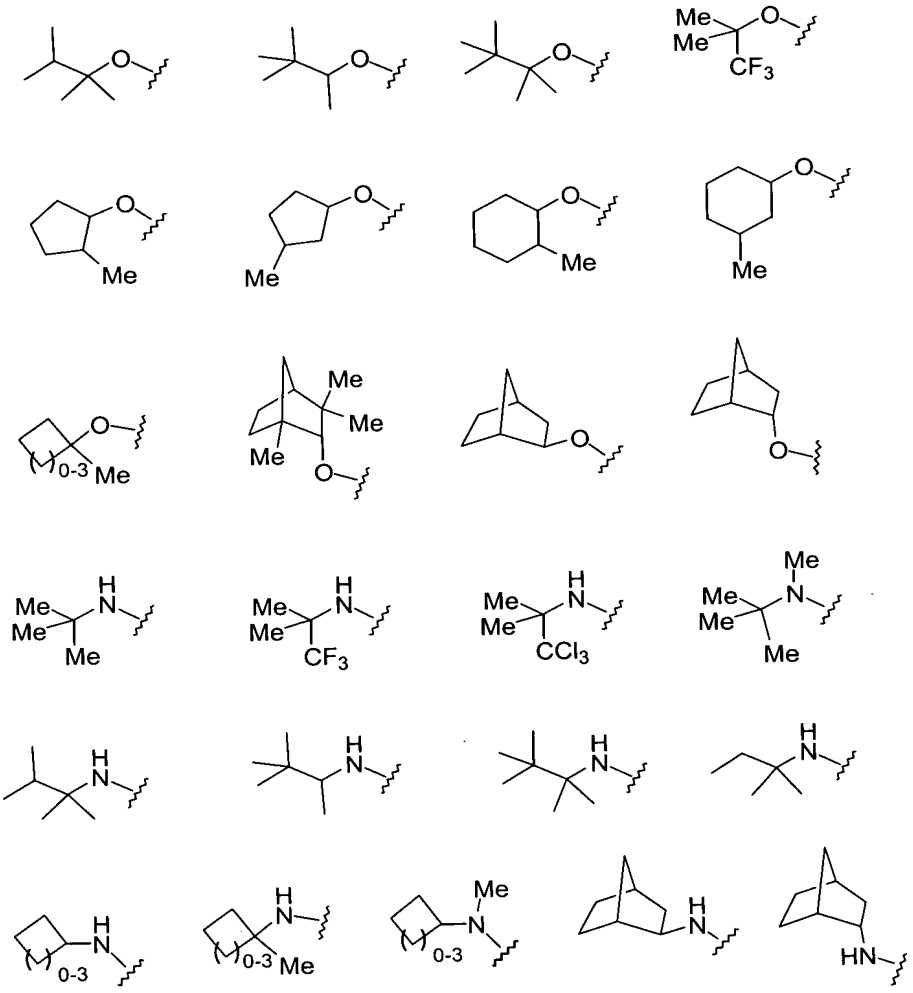
Y^{14} is selected from $MeSO_2$, Ac, Boc, iBoc, Cbz, or Alloc;

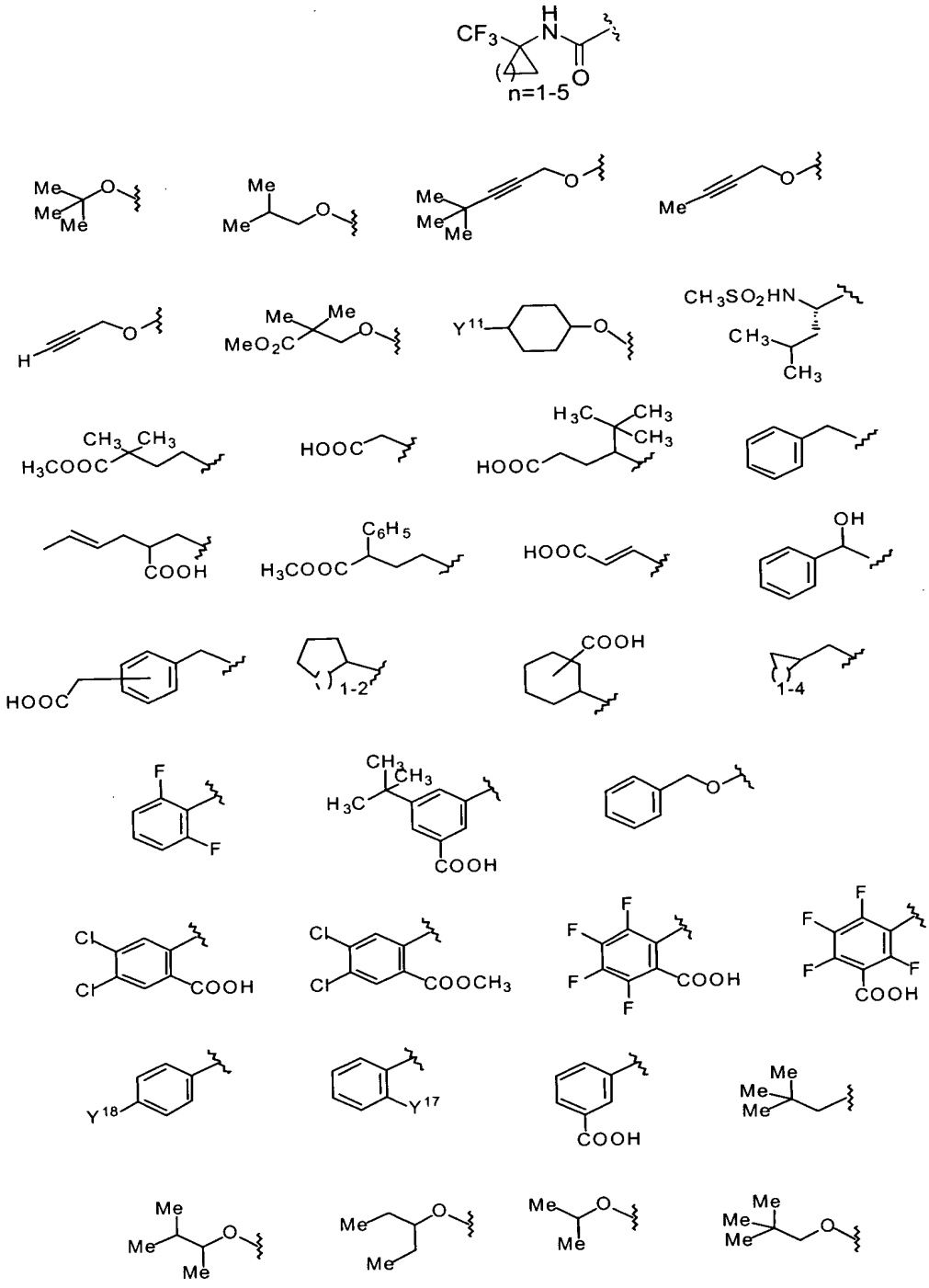
Y^{15} and Y^{16} are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, and heteroaryl;

Y^{17} is CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, $COOCH_3$, OCH_3, OC_6H_5, C_6H_5, COC_6H_5, NH_2, or COOH; and

Y^{18} is $COOCH_3$, NO_2, $N(CH_3)_2$, F, OCH_3, CH_2COOH, COOH, SO_2NH_2, or $NHCOCH_3$.

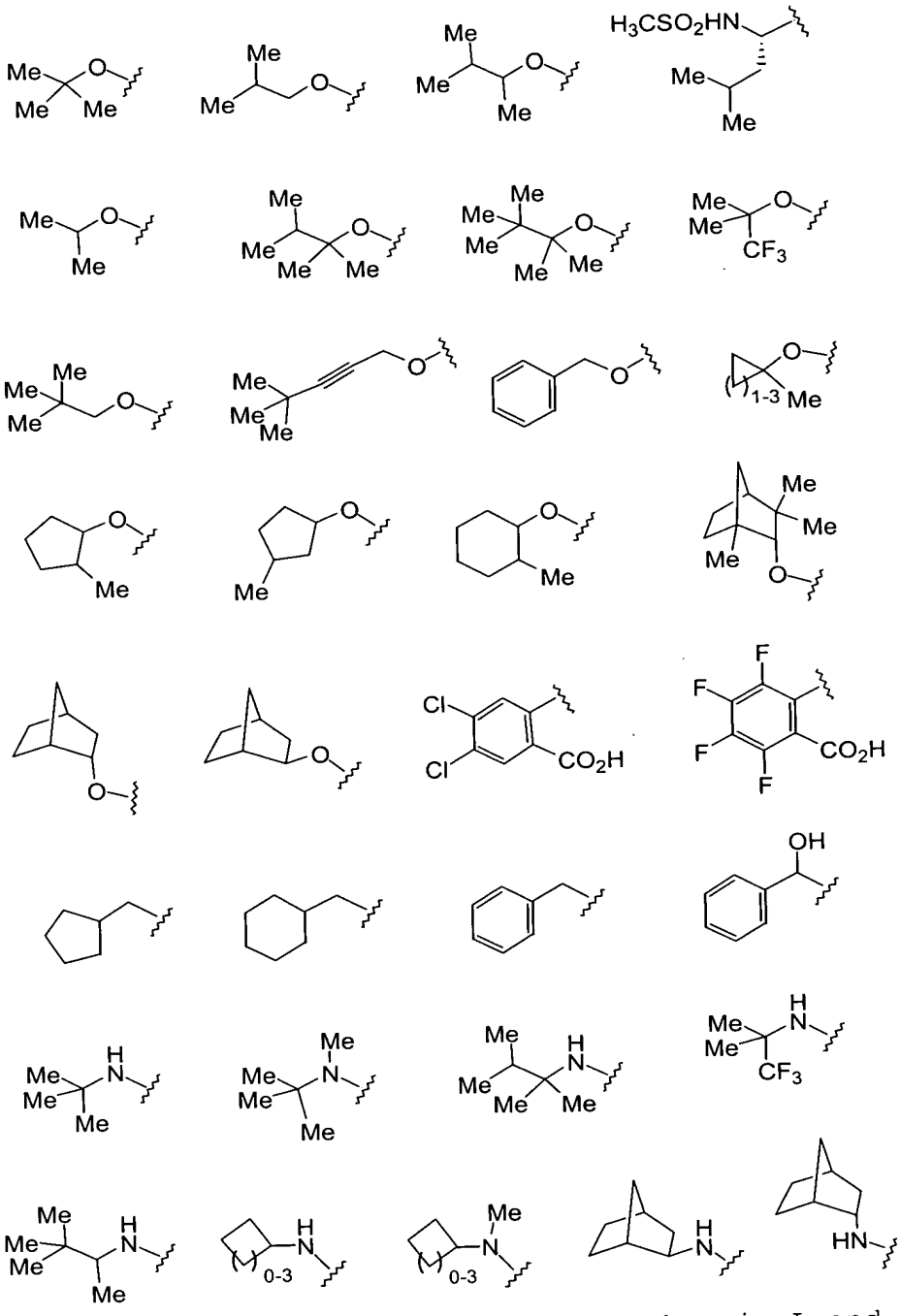
13. (original) The compound of claim 12, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:





wherein:
Y^{17} = CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, or COOH;
Y^{18}= F, COOH,

14. (original) The compound of claim 13, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:

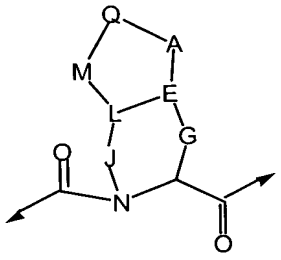


15. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein L and M are absent, and J is directly linked to E.

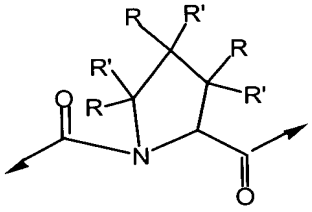
16. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein L, J and M are absent and E is directly linked to N.

17. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein G and M are absent.

18. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein the moiety:

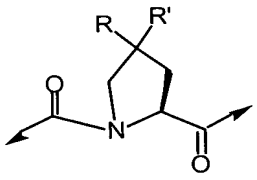


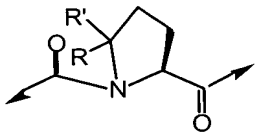
is

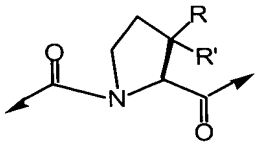


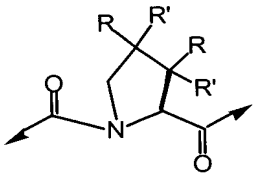
a

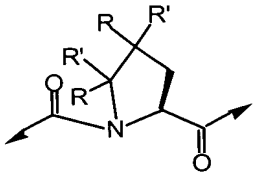
19. (currently amended) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is selected from the following structures:

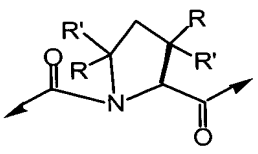




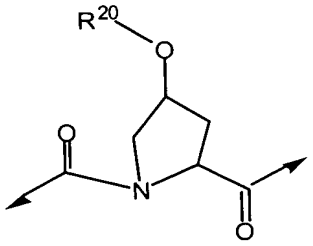




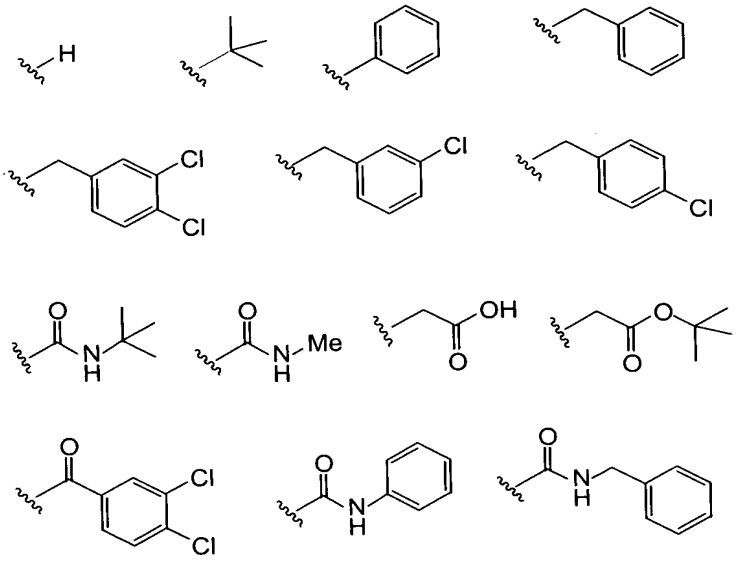




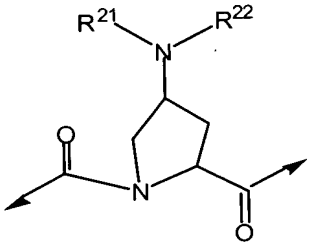
20. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is:



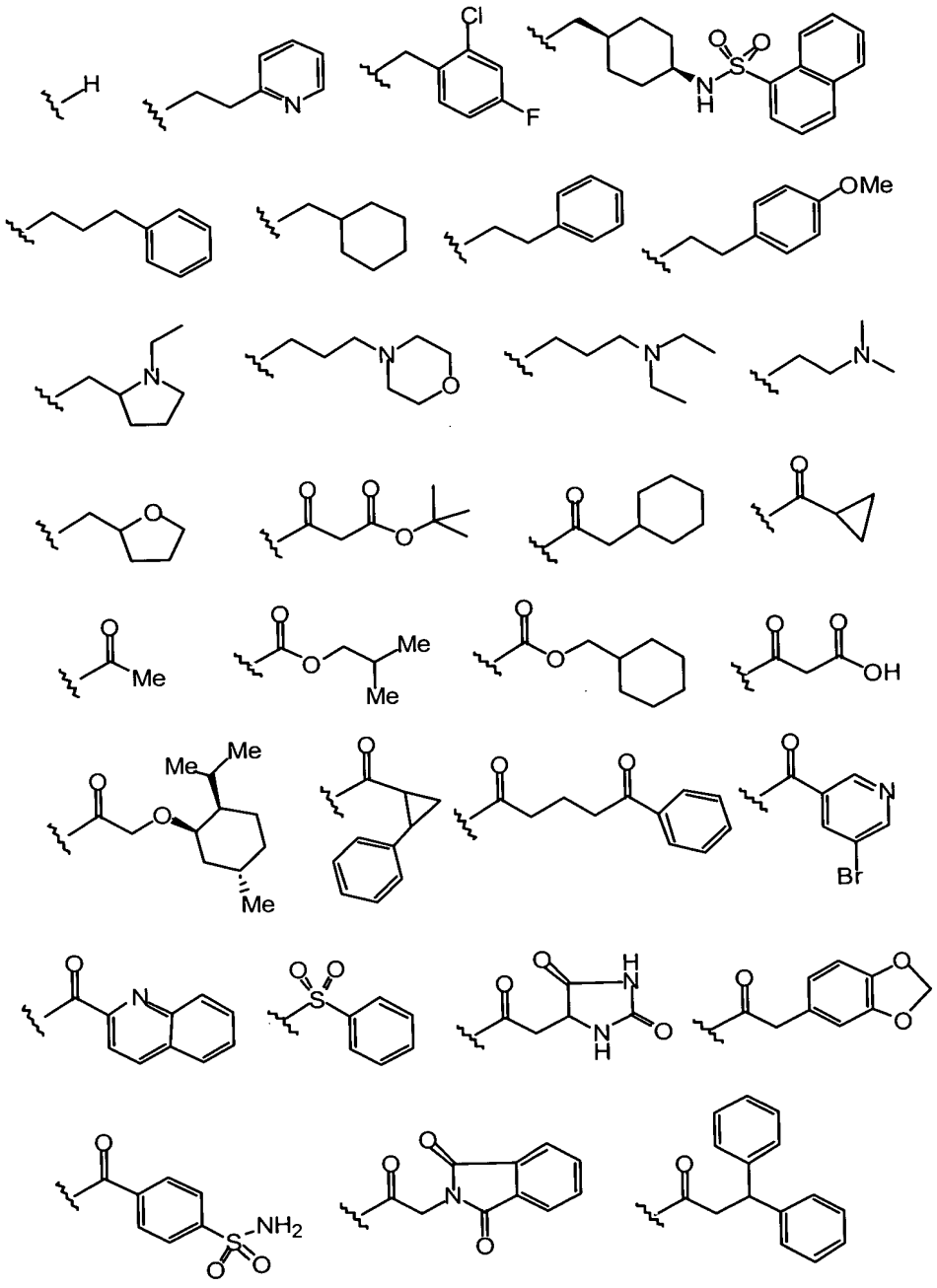
wherein R^{20} is selected from the following structures:



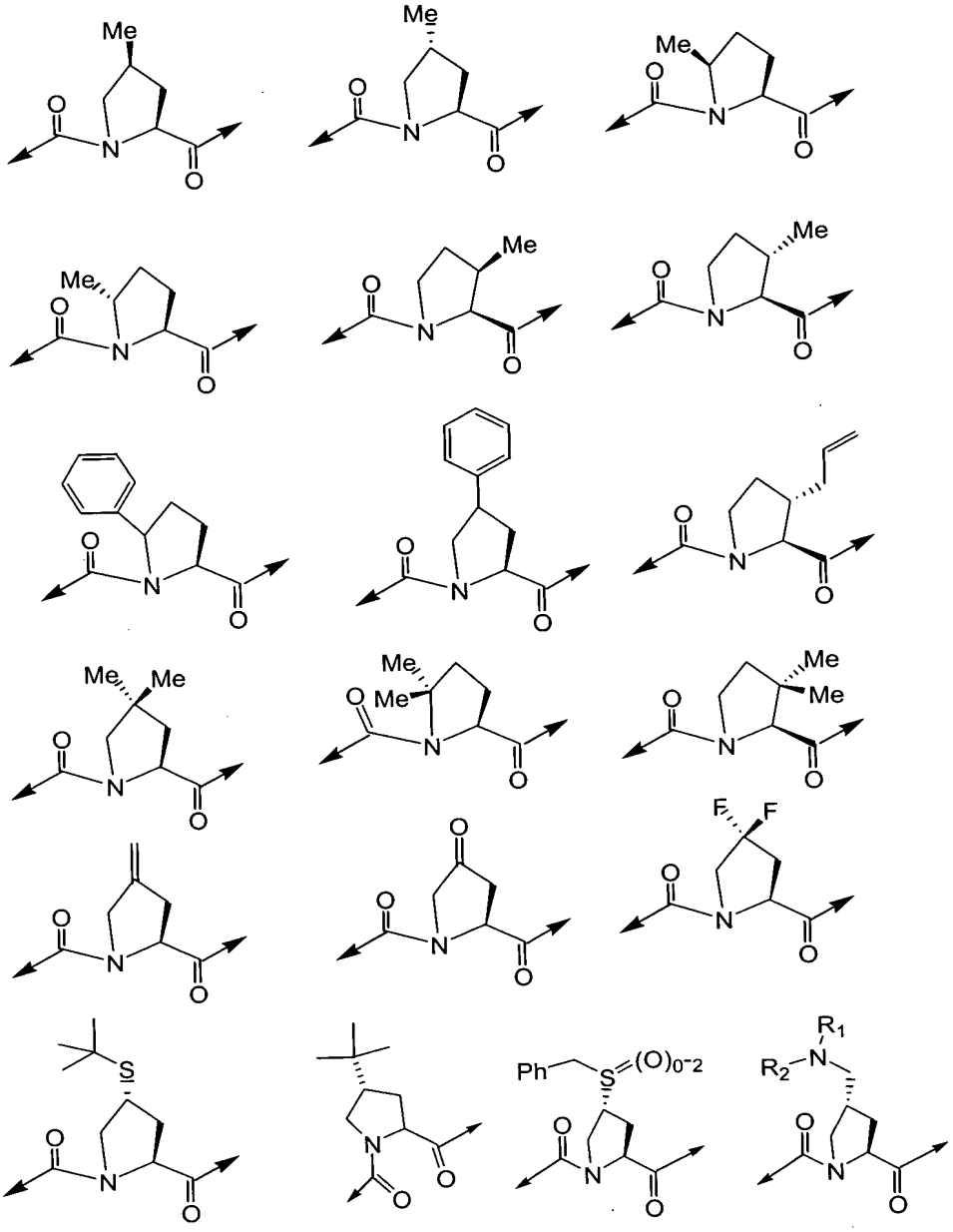
21. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is:



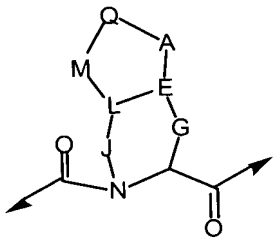
wherein R^{21} and R^{22} may be the same or different and are independently selected from the following structures:



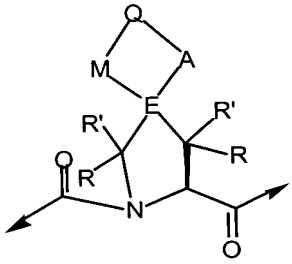
22. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is selected from the following structures:


Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
F
F
S
Ph
S
(O)0-2
R1
R2
N
O

23. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:



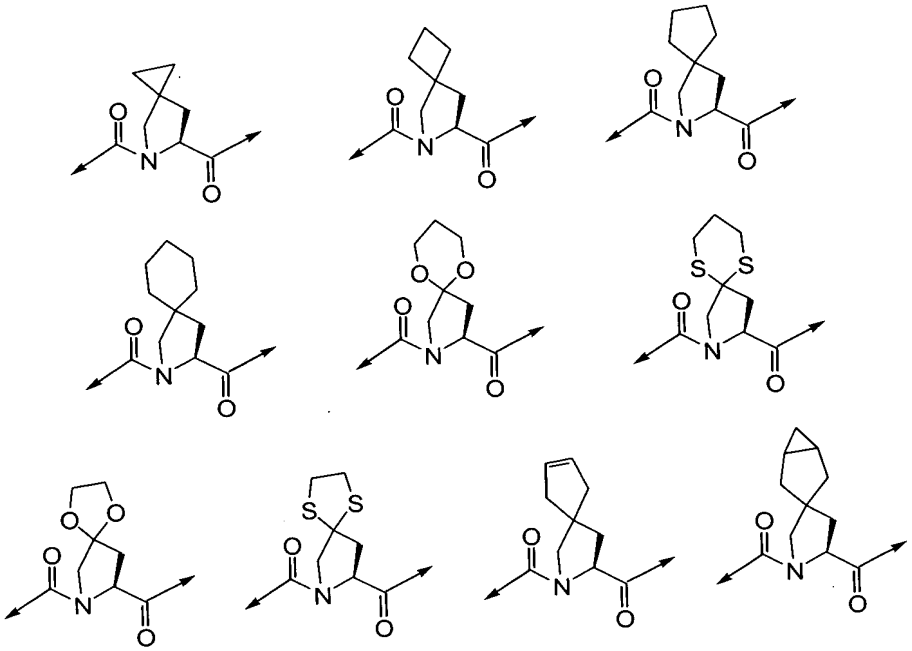
is



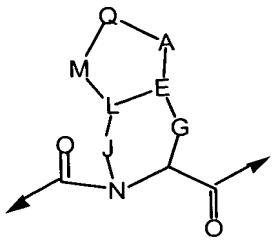
b

wherein Q may be present or absent, and if Q is absent, M is directly linked to A.

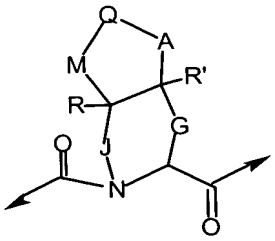
24. (original) The compound of claim 23, wherein structure b is selected from the following structures:



25. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:



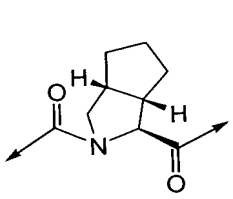
is

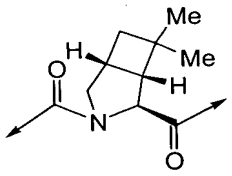


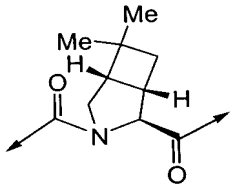
c

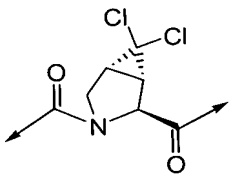
wherein G and J are independently selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, and $(CRR')_p$; A and M are independently selected from the group consisting of O, S, SO_2, NR, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, and $(CRR')_p$; and Q is CH_2, CHR, CRR', NH, NR, O, S, SO_2, NR, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, and $(CRR')_p$.

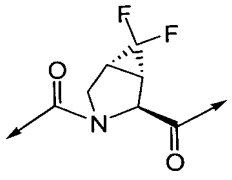
26. (original) The compound of claim 25, wherein structure c is selected from the following structures:

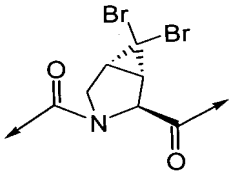


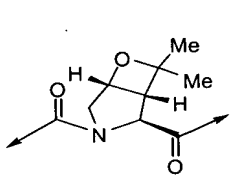


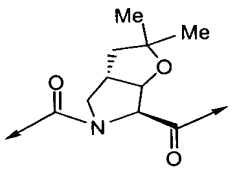


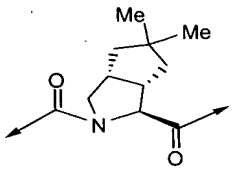


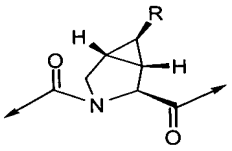


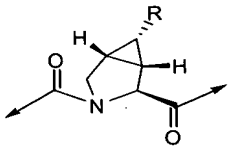



O
Me
Me
H
H
O
N
O


Me
Me
O
O
N
O


Me
Me
O
N
O


R
H
H
O
N
O


R
H
H
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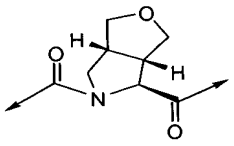
N
O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H
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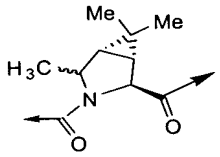
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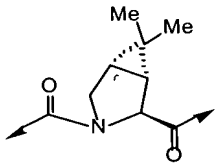
H3C
N
O
O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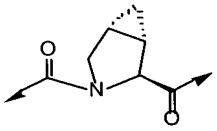
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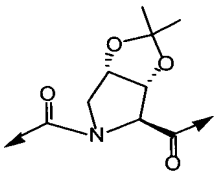
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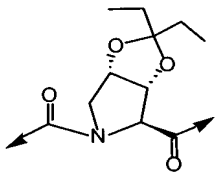
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N
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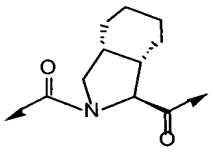
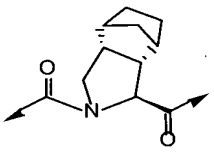

O
N
O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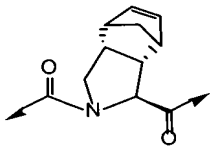
N
O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N
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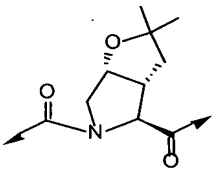
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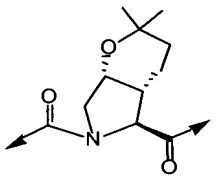
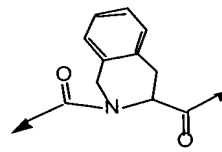
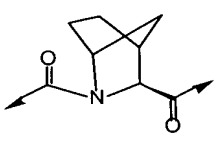
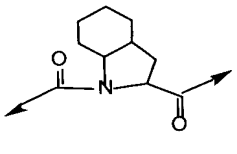
O
N
O


O
O
N
O


O
N
O


O
N
O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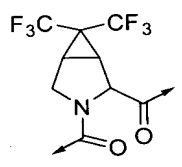
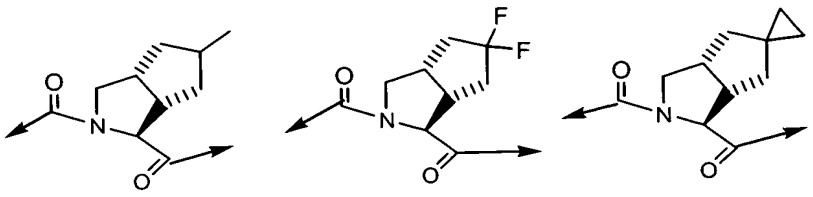
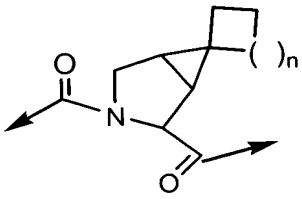
O


F3C
CF3
N
O
O

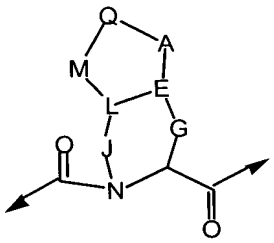


and

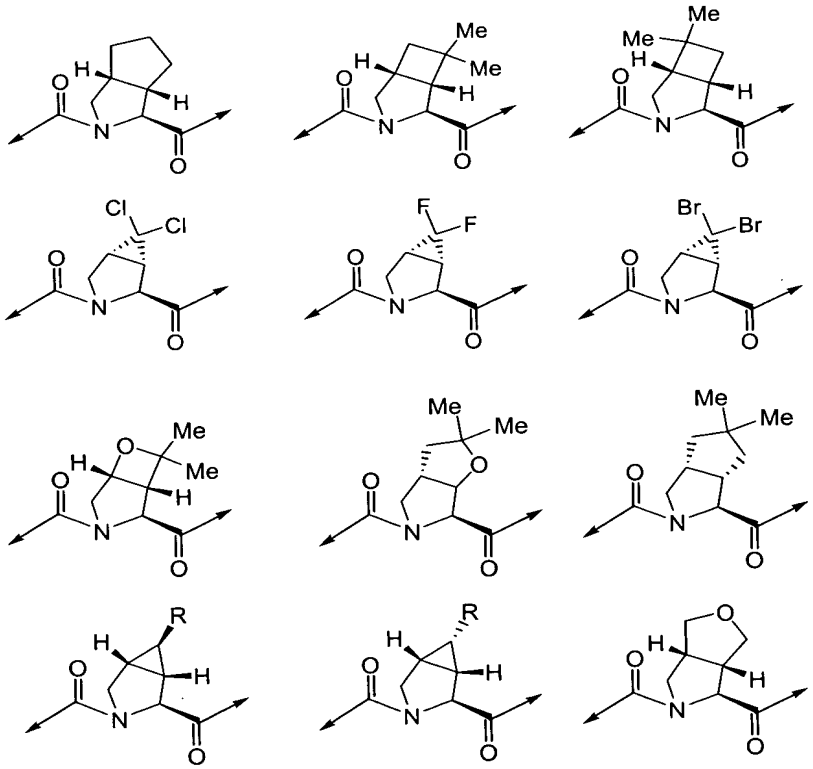


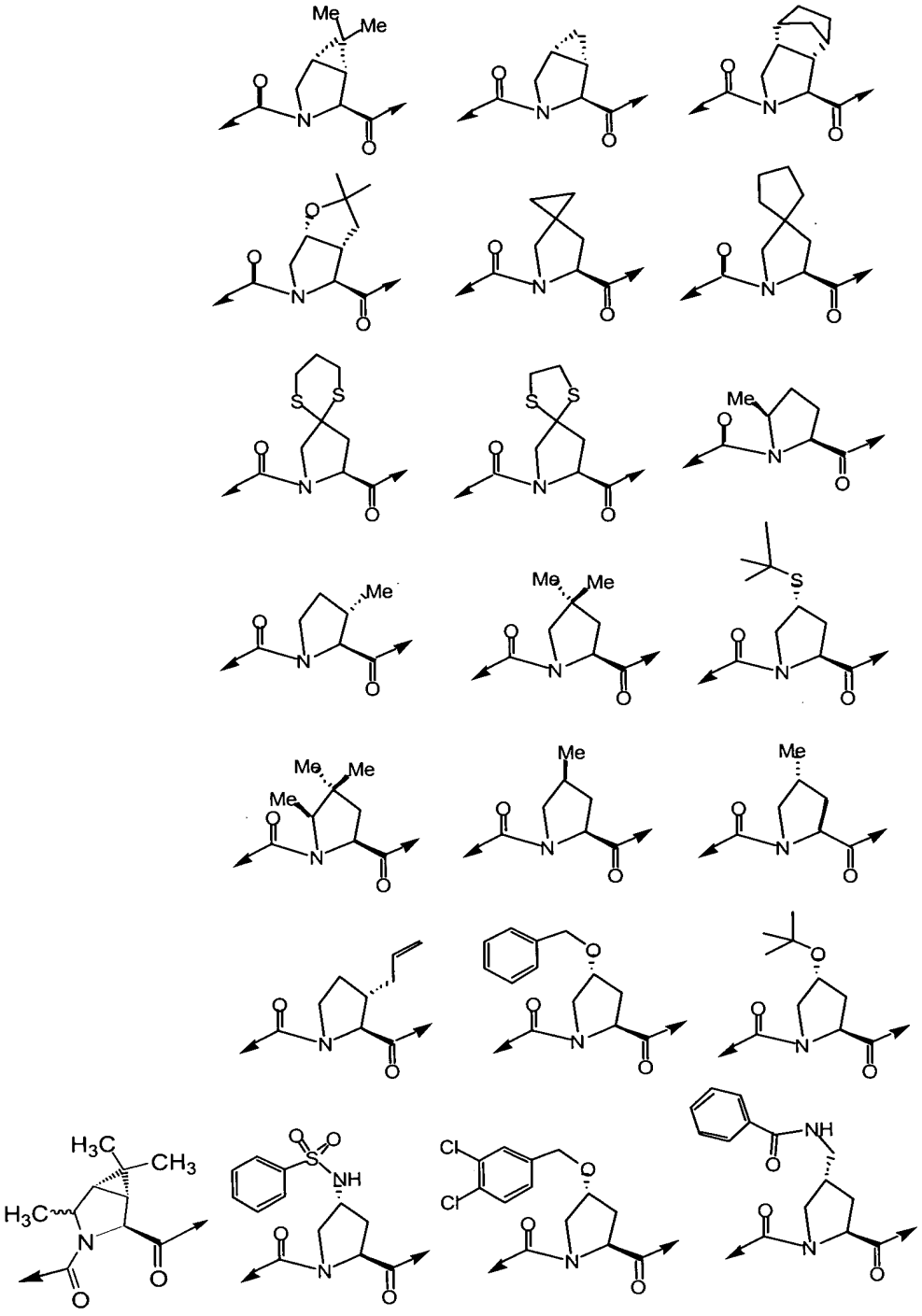
where n= 0-4.

27. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:

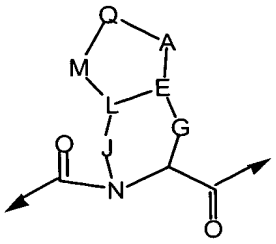


is selected from the following structures:

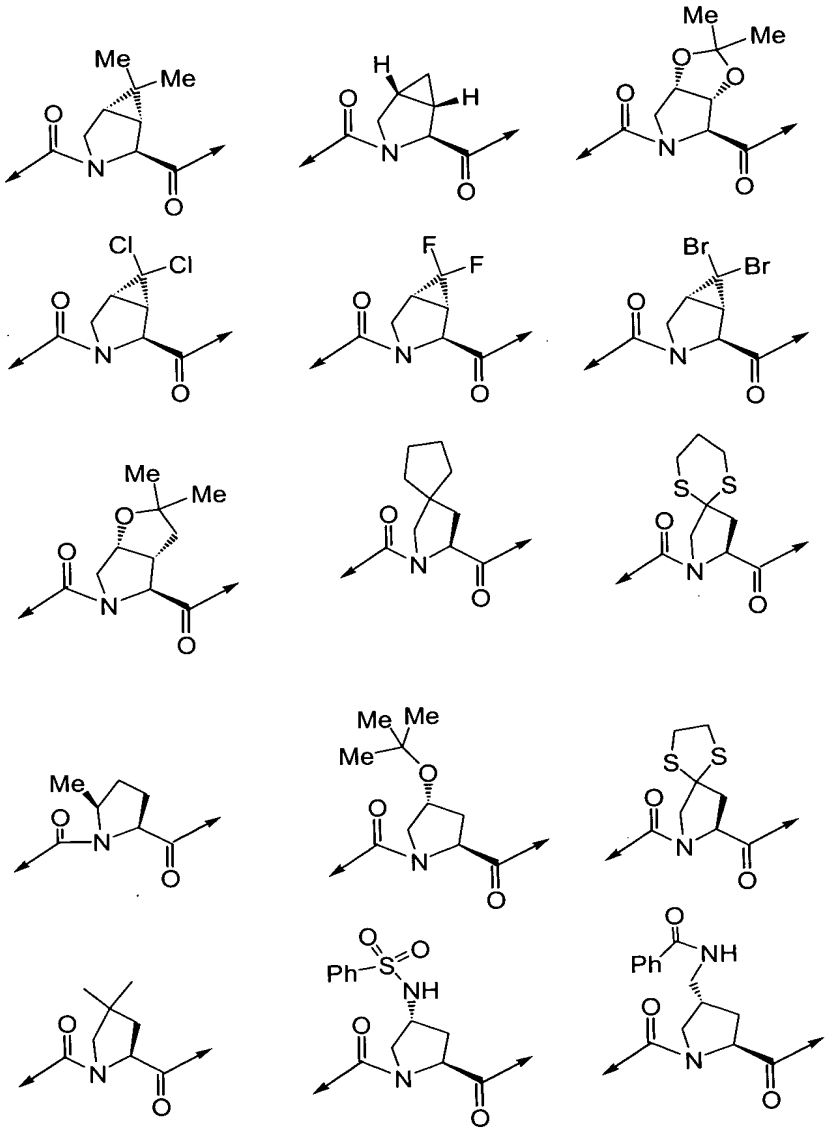




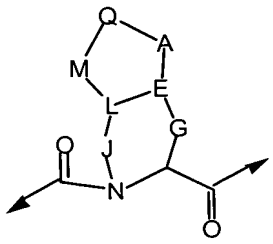
28. (original) The compound of claim 27, wherein:



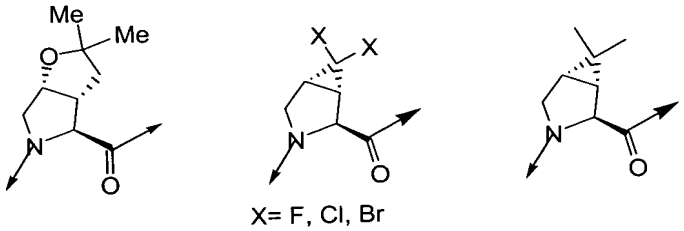
is selected from the following structures:



29. (previously presented) The compound of claim 27, wherein:



is selected from the following structures:



30. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of claim 1.

31. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 30 suitable for use in treating disorders associated with hepatitis C virus.

32. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 30 additionally comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

34. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33, further containing an interferon.

35. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon or pegylated interferon.

36. (previously presented) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a

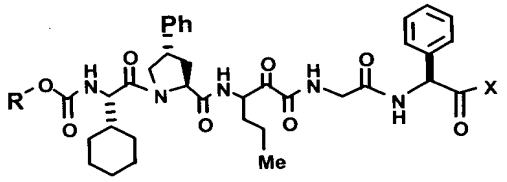
pharmaceutical composition which comprises therapeutically effective amounts of a compound of claim 1.

37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein said administration is oral or subcutaneous.

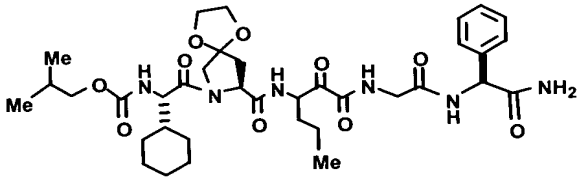
38. (previously presented) The use of a compound of claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament to treat disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus.

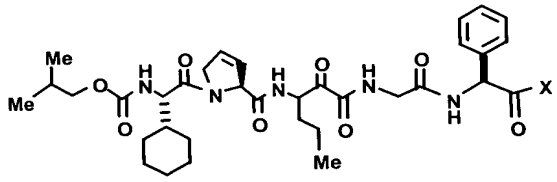
39. (previously presented) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating the disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus, said method comprising bringing into intimate contact a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the compounds of structures listed below:

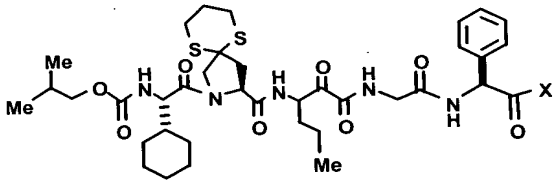


(R = t-butyl, X = NH_2)
(R = Isobutyl, X = NH_2) (R = t-butyl, X = OH)
(R = Trichloroethyl, X = OH)

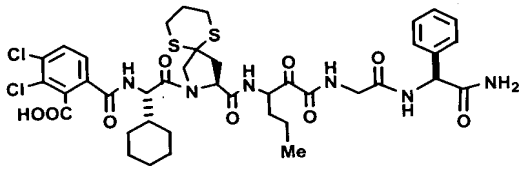


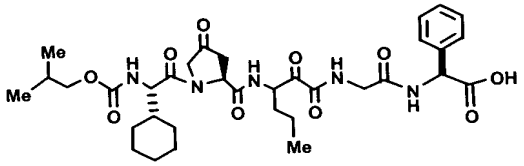


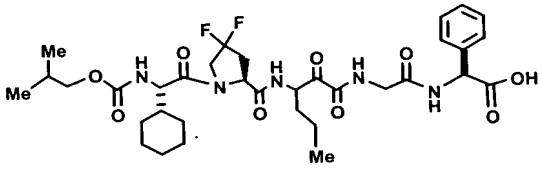
(X = O^tBu)
(X = OH)

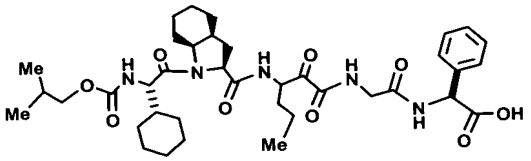


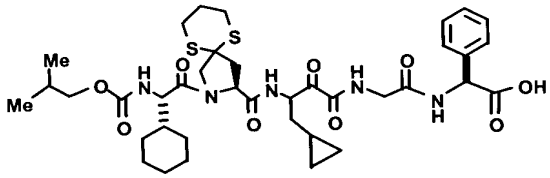
(X = OH)
(X = O^tBu) (X = NH_2)
(X = NHMe) (X = NMe_2)

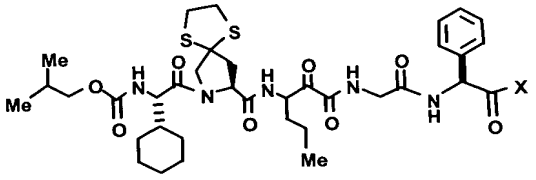




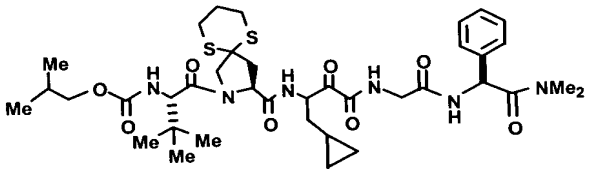


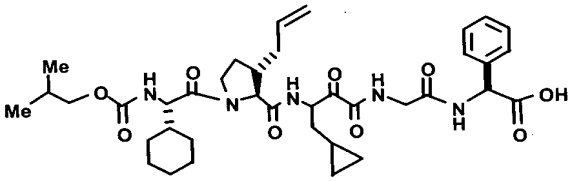


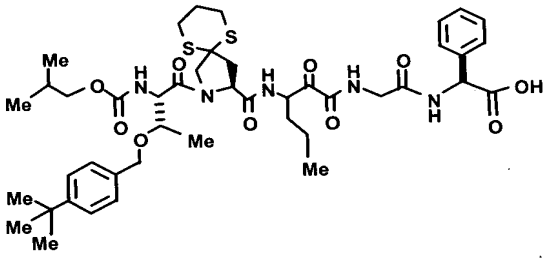


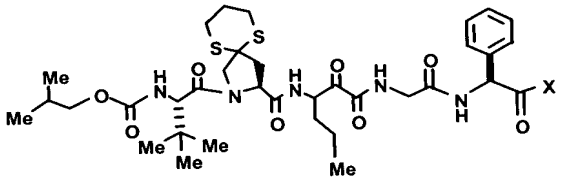


(X = NH_2) (X=NHMe)
(X = NMe_2) (X=OH)

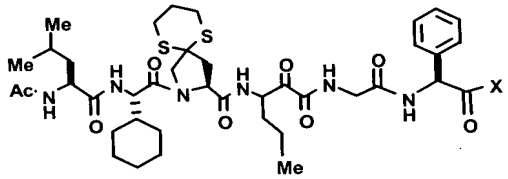


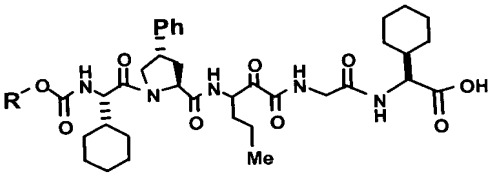






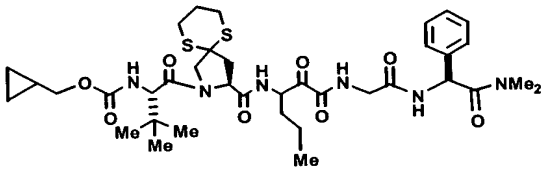
(X = O^tBu) (X = NH_2)
(X = OH) (X = NMe_2)

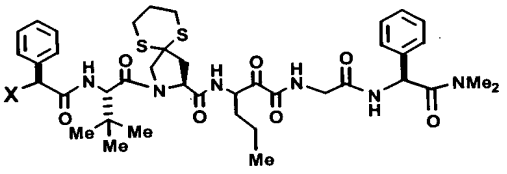




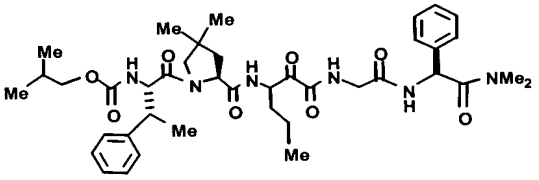
(X = O^tBu) (X = NH_2) (X = NMe_2)
(X = OH) (X = NMeOMe)

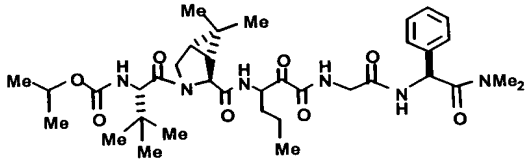
(R = t-butyl)
(R = Isobutyl)

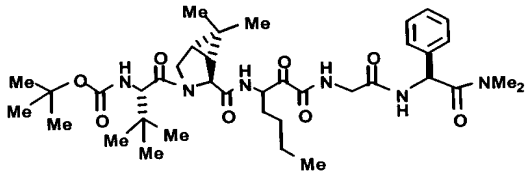


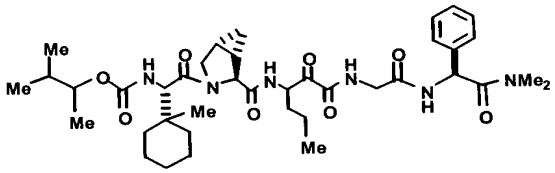


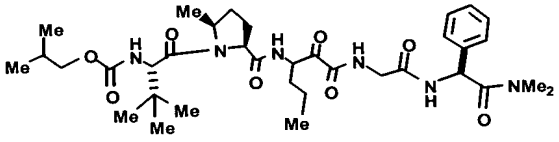
(X = Me, Y = CH_2Me)
(X = OAc, Y = Me)

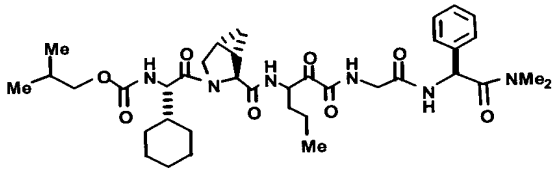


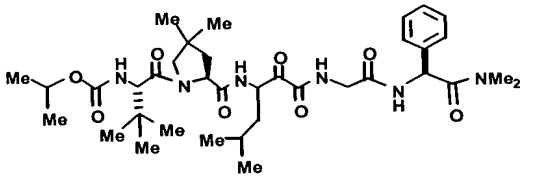


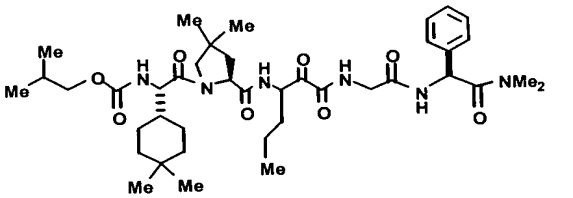


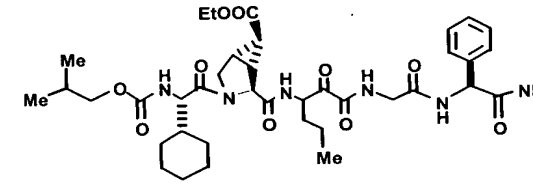


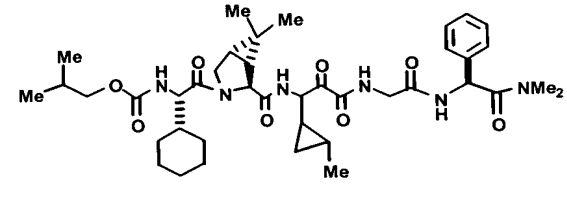


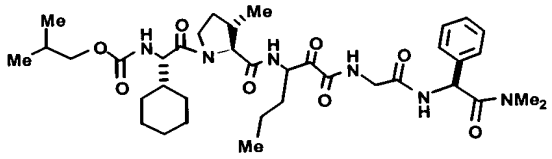


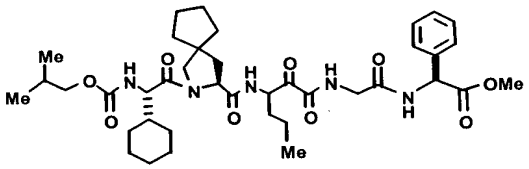


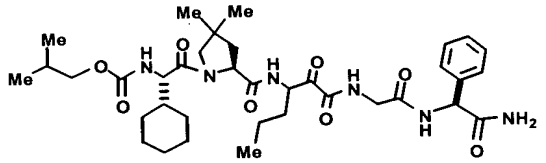


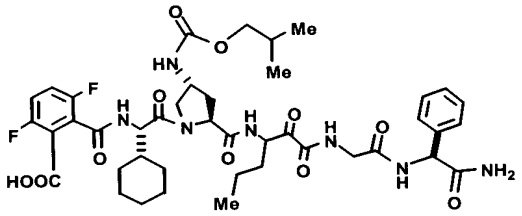


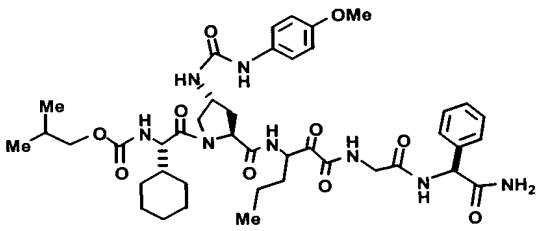


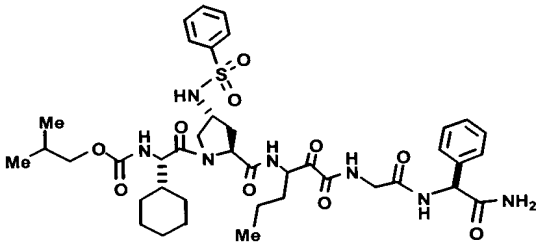


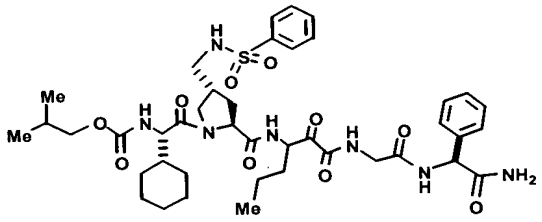


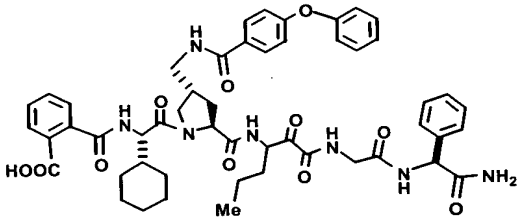


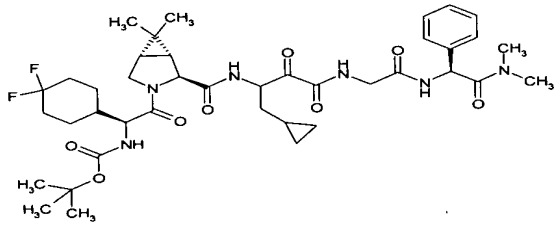


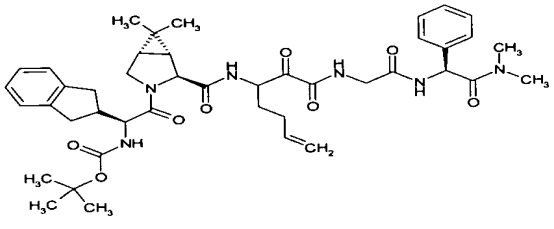


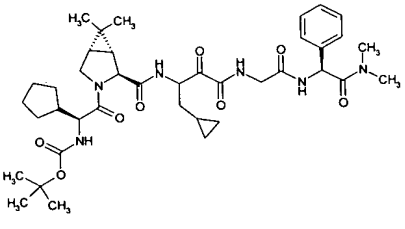


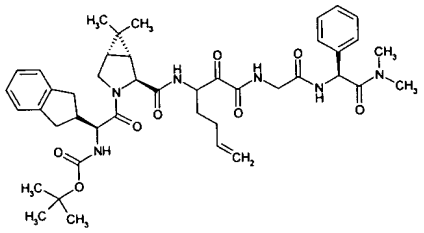


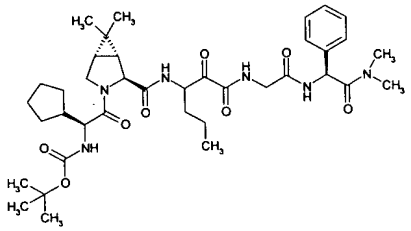


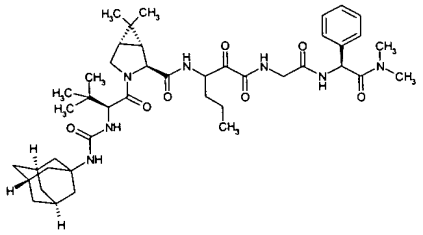


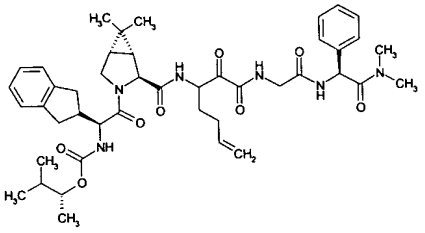


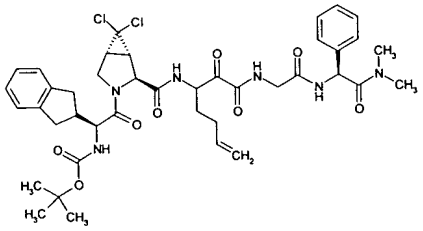


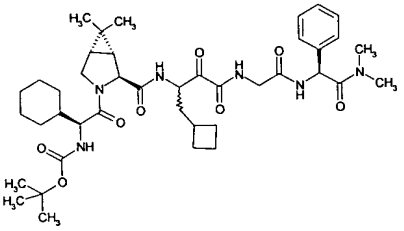


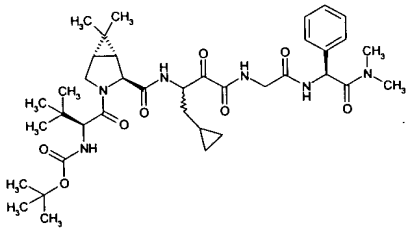


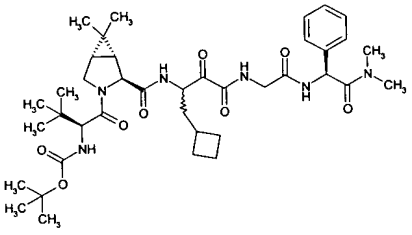


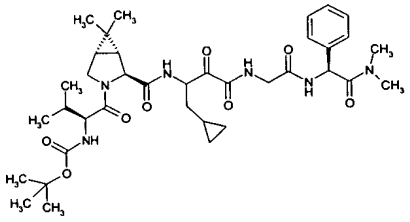


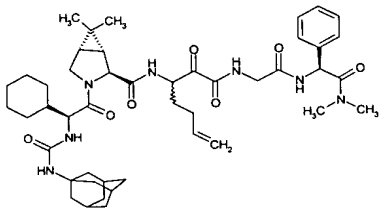


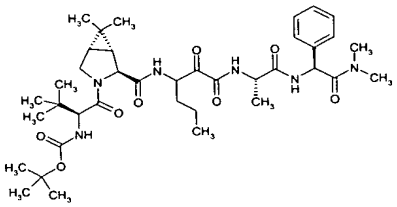


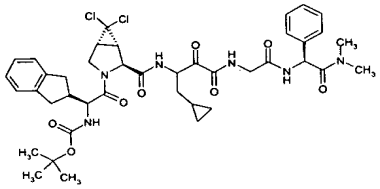


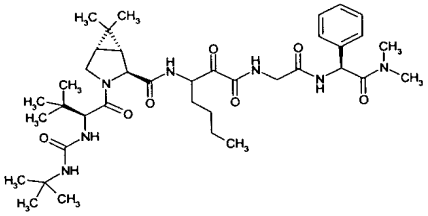


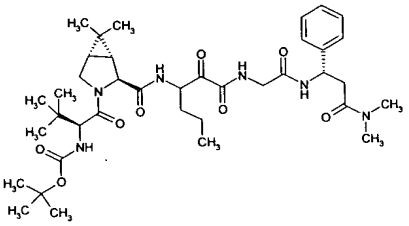


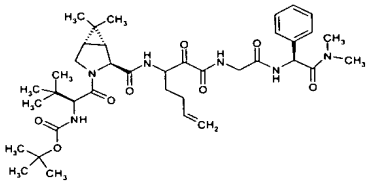


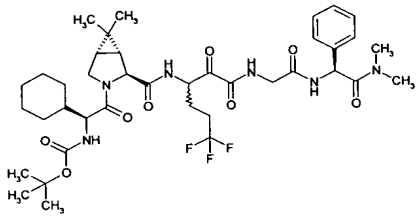


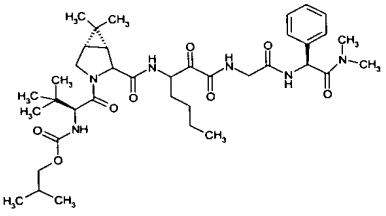


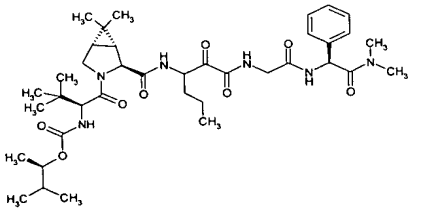


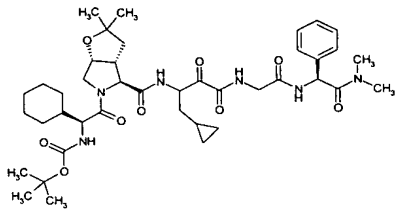


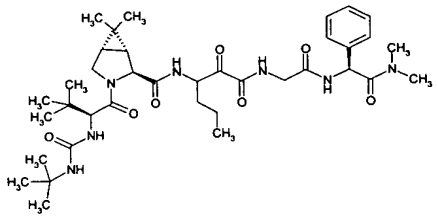


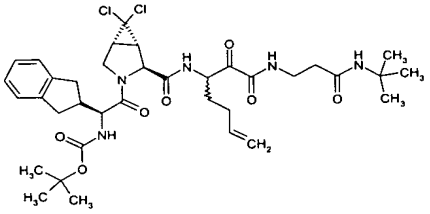


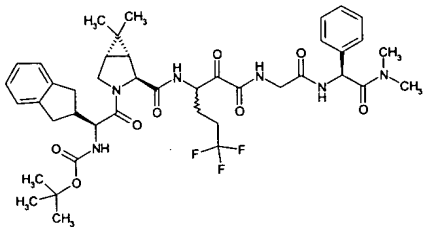


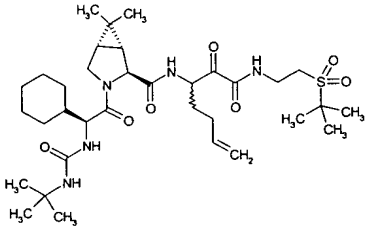


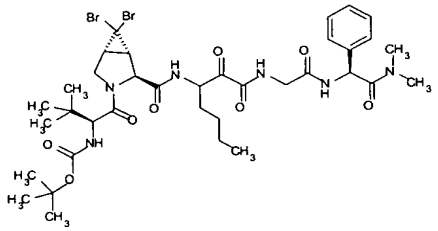


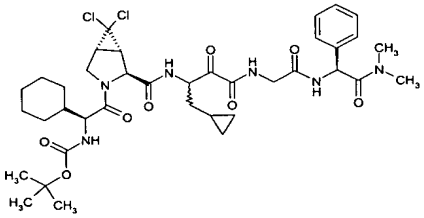


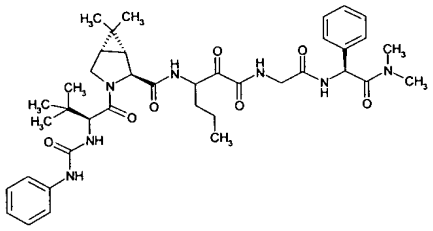


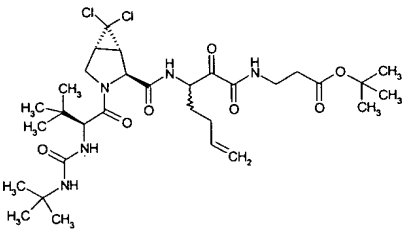


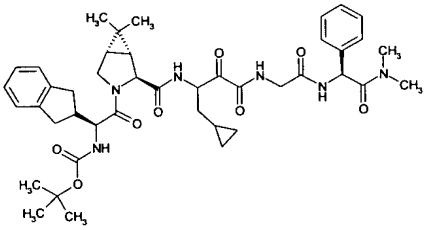


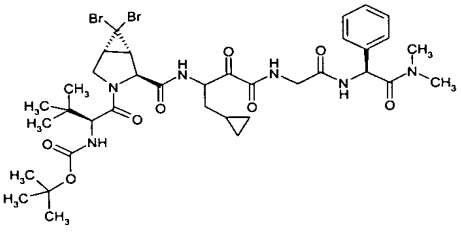


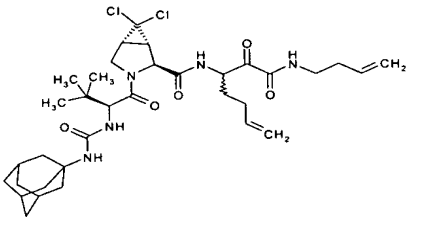


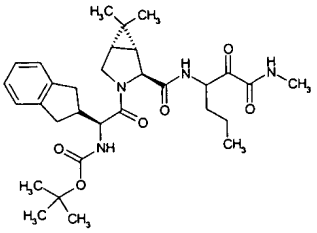


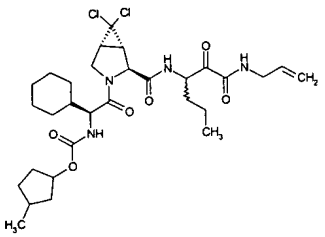


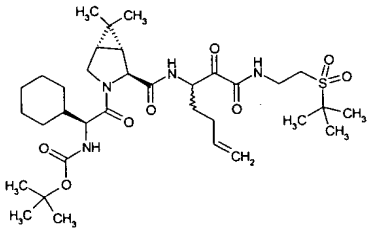


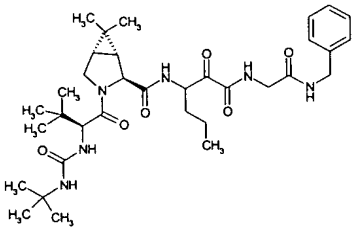


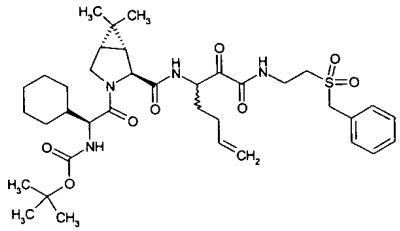


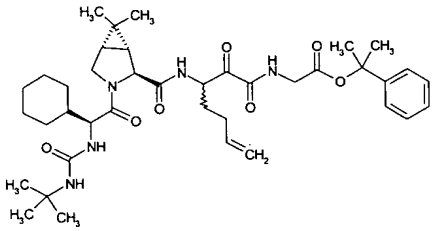


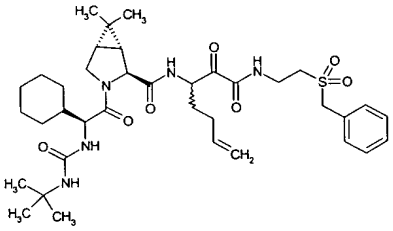


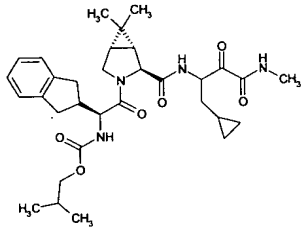


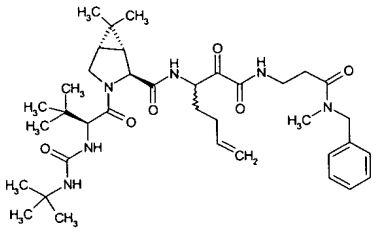


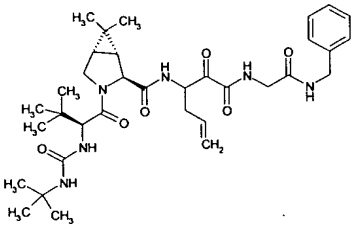


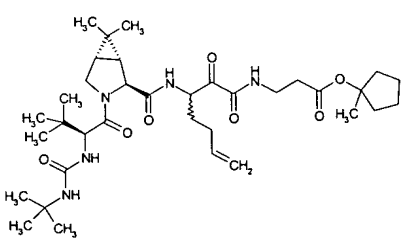


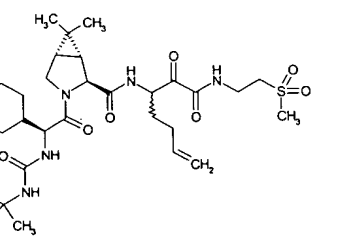


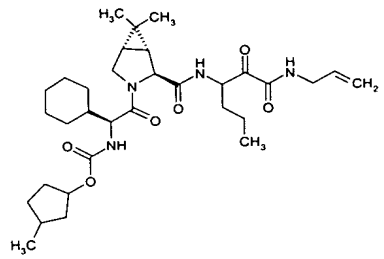


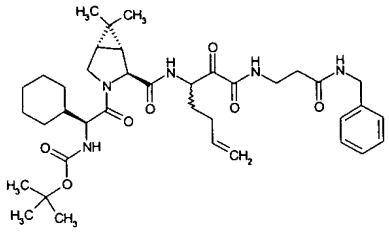


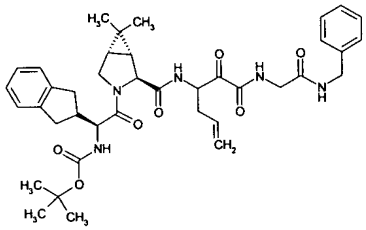


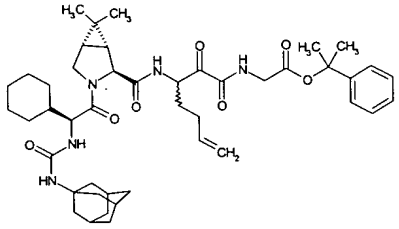


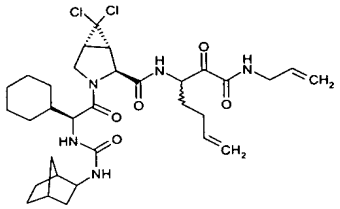


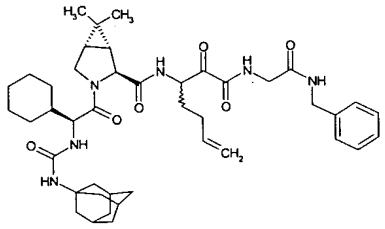


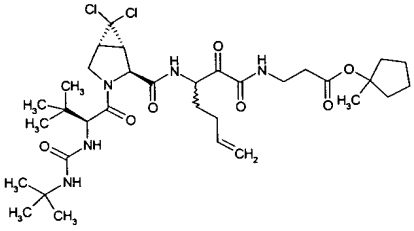


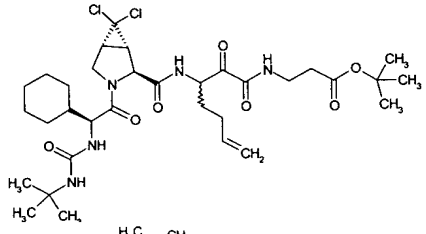


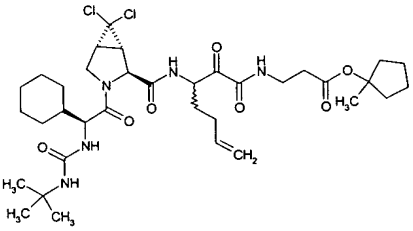


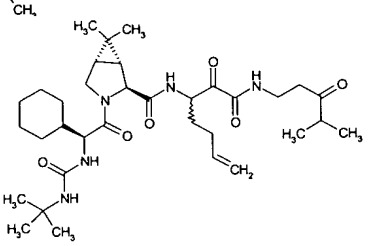


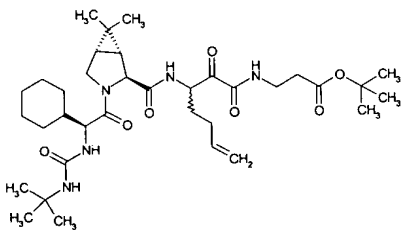


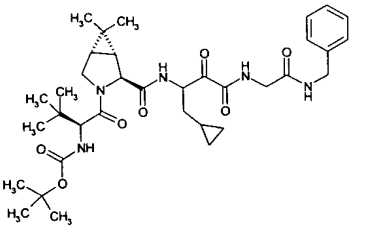


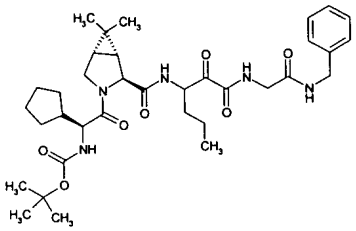


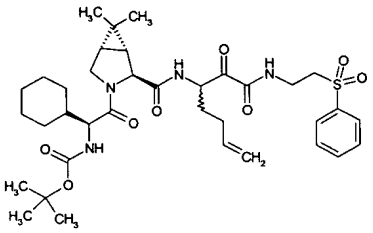


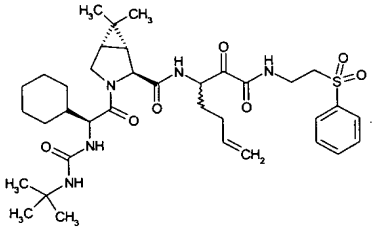


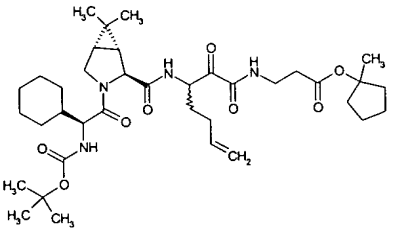


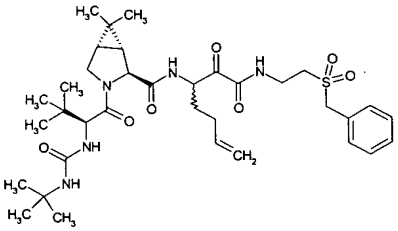


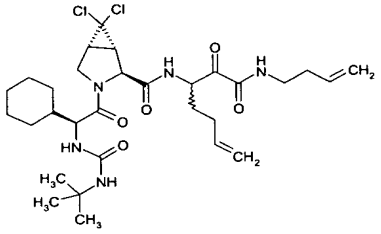


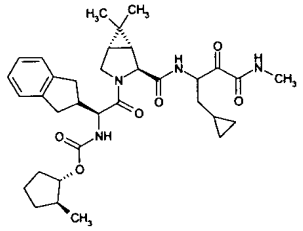


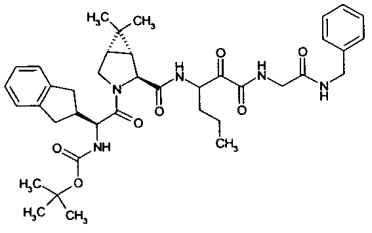


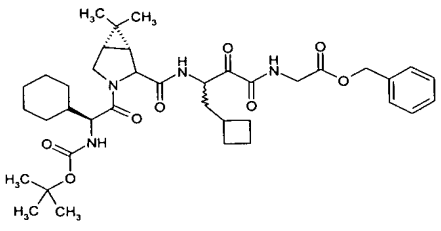


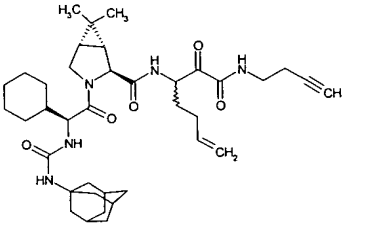


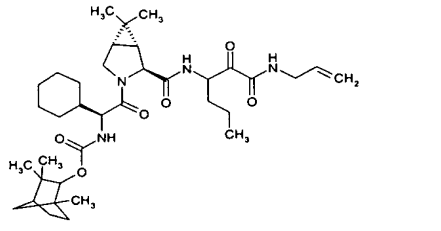


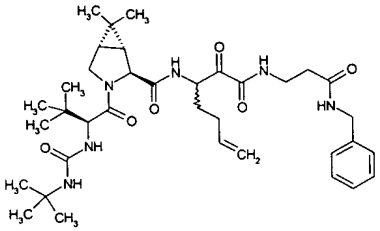


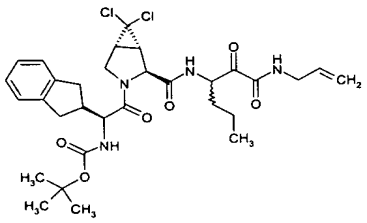


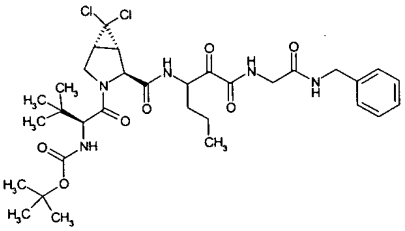


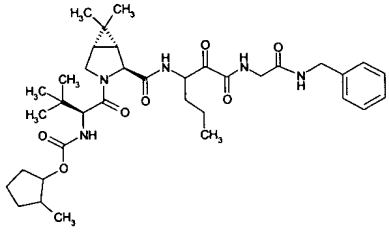


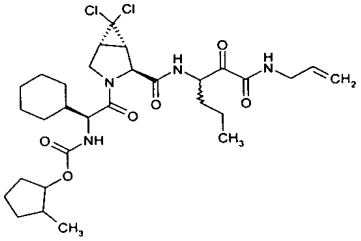


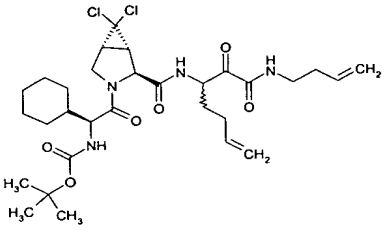


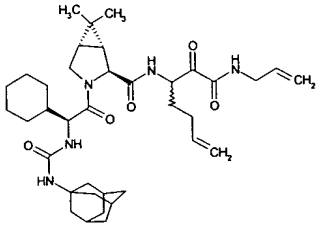


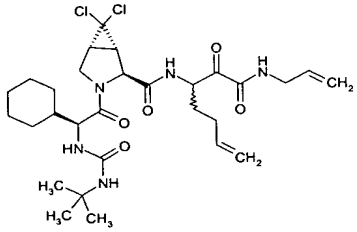


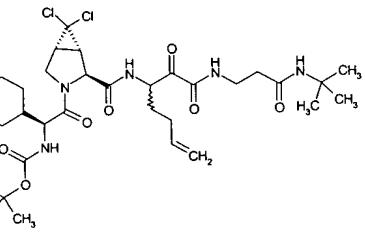


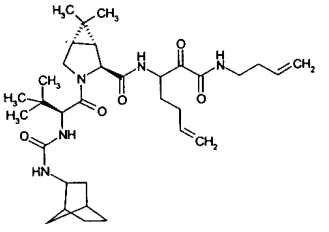


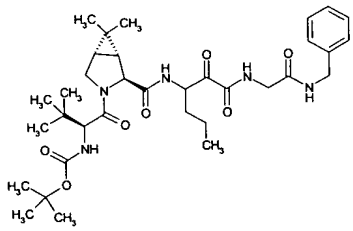


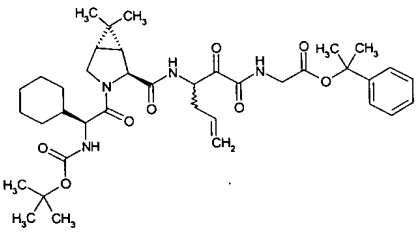


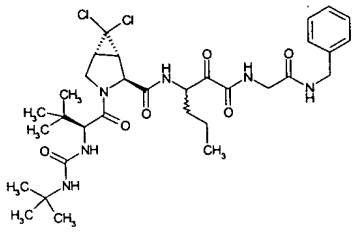


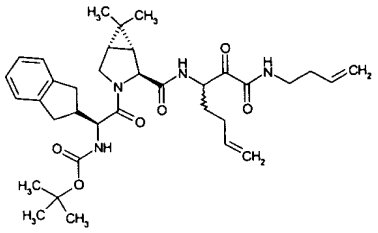


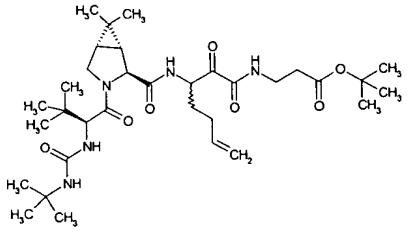


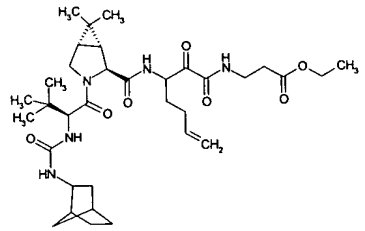


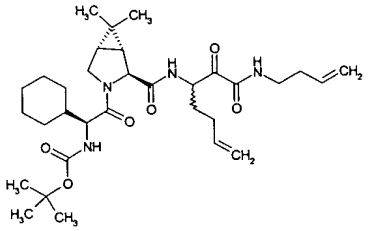


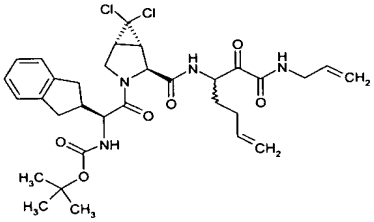


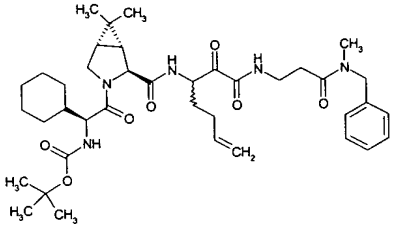


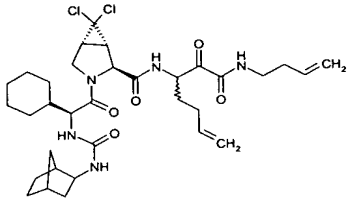


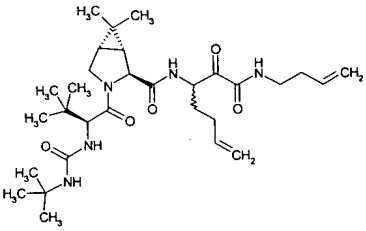


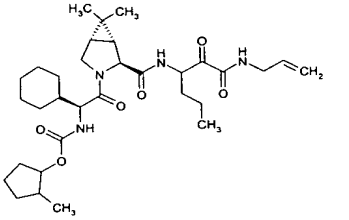


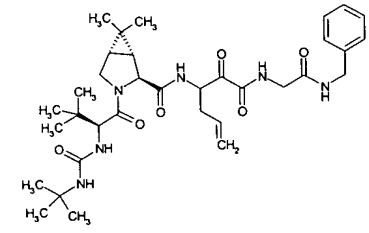


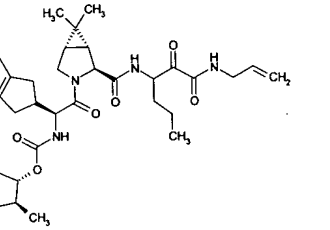


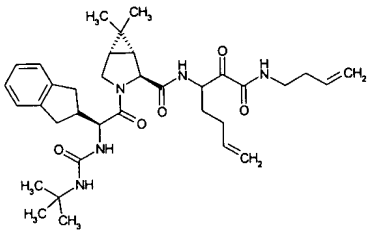


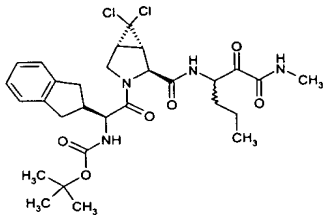


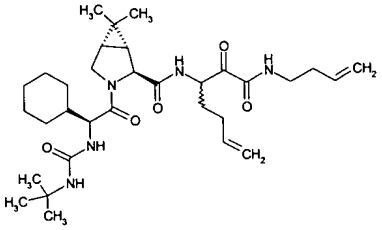


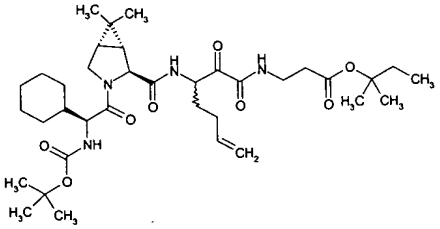


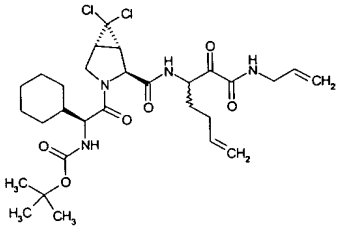


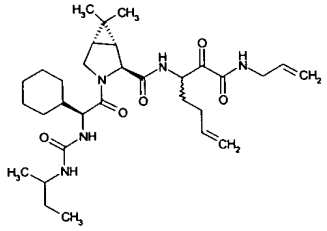


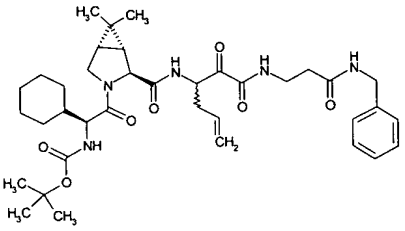


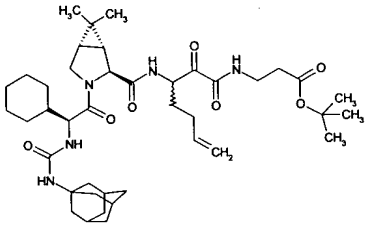


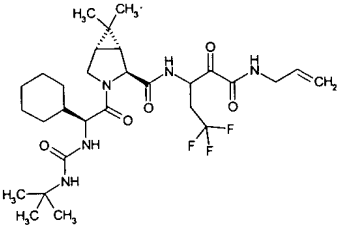


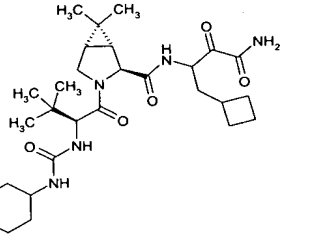


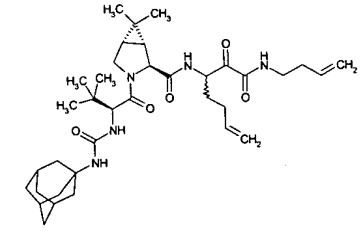


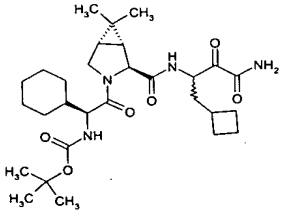


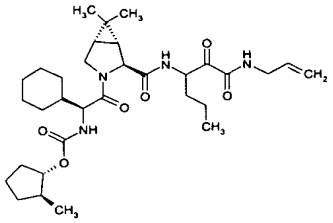


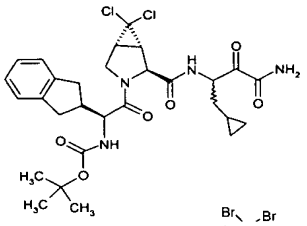


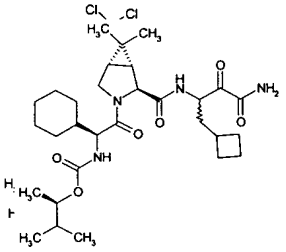


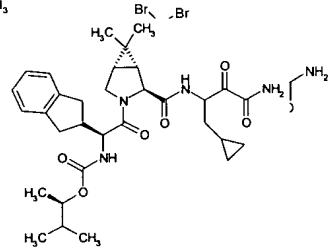


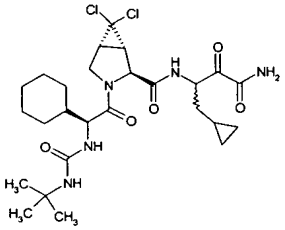


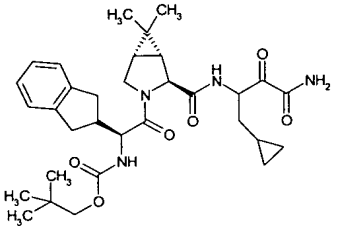


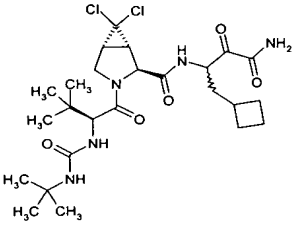


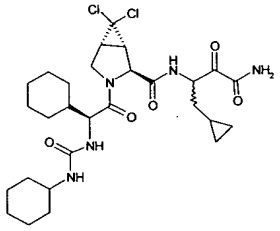


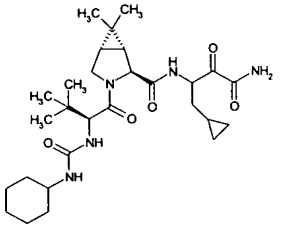


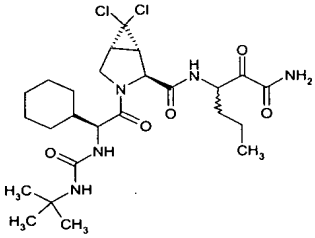


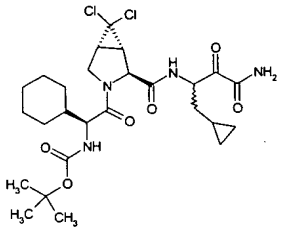


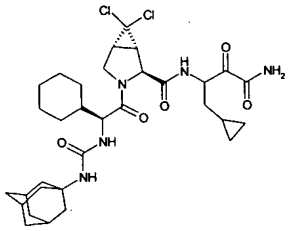


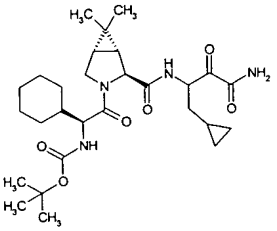


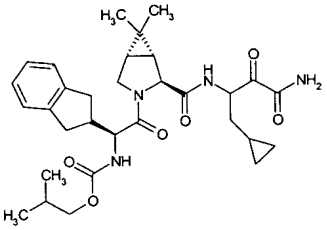


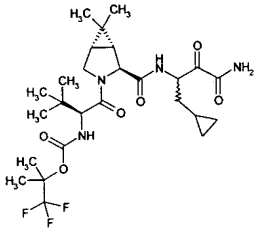


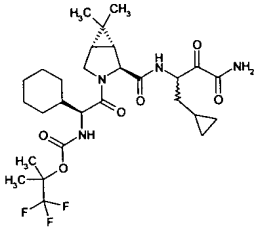


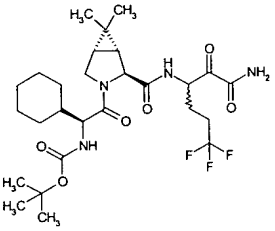


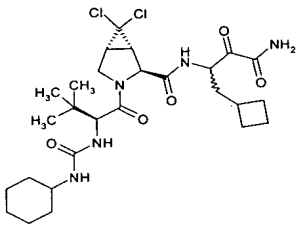












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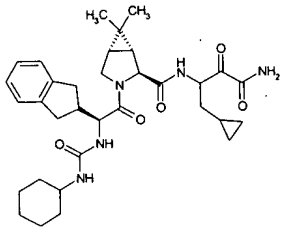
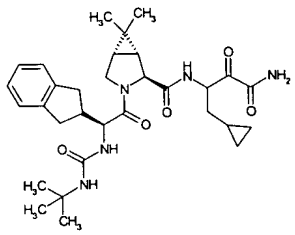
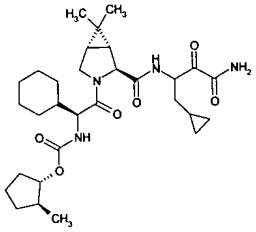
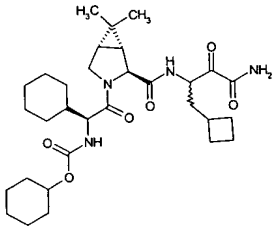
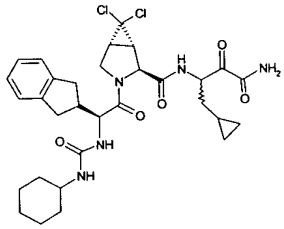
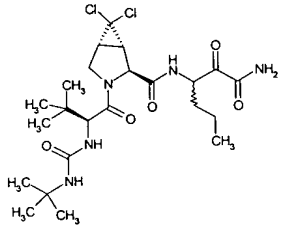


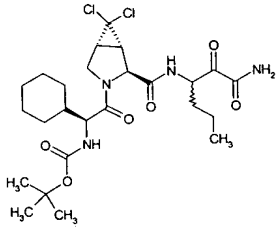


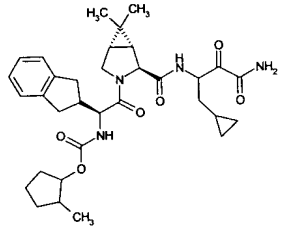


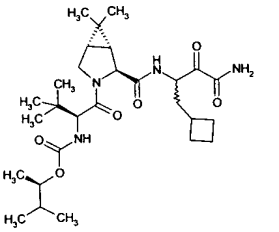


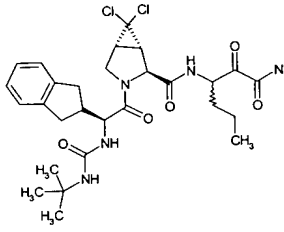


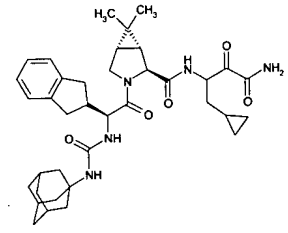


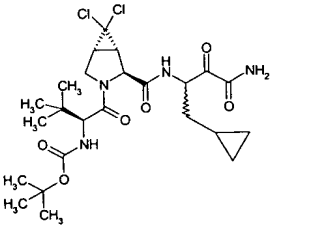


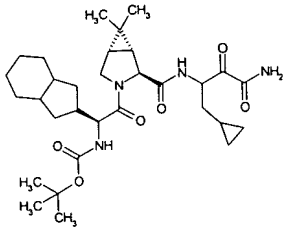


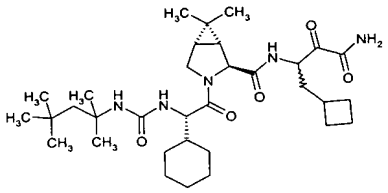


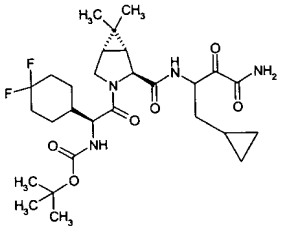


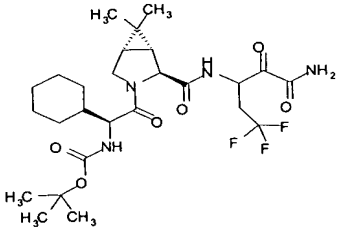


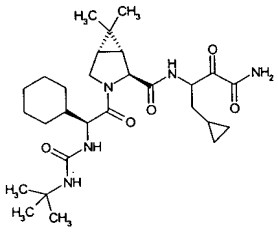


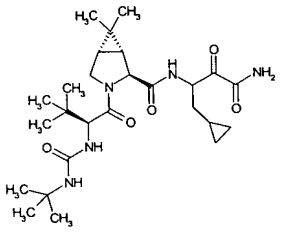


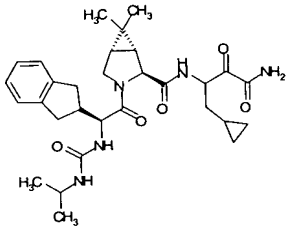


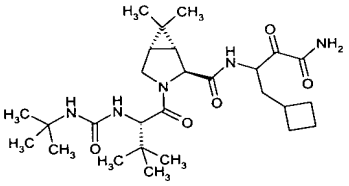


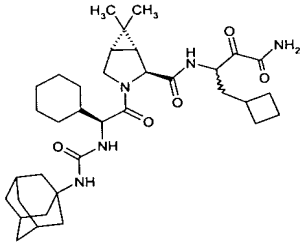


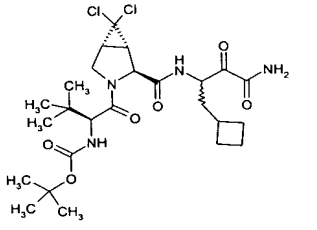


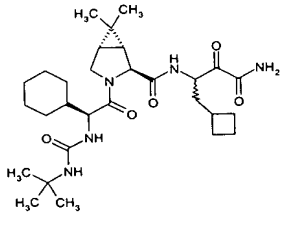


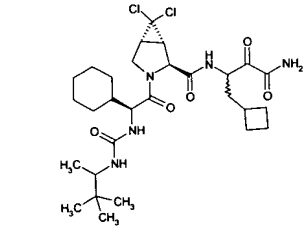


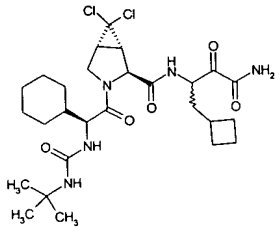


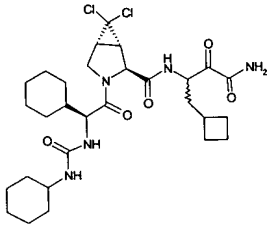


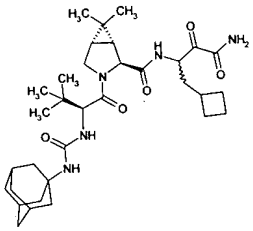


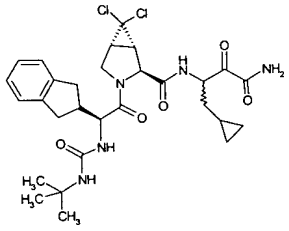


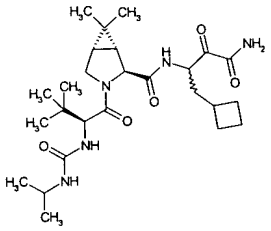


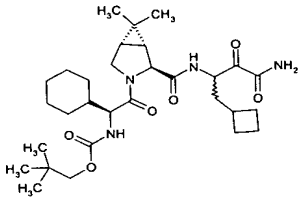


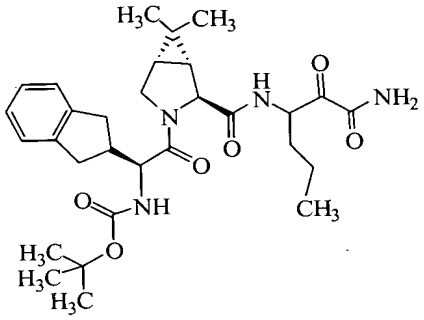


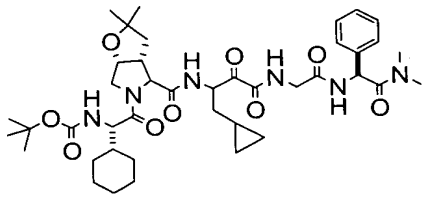


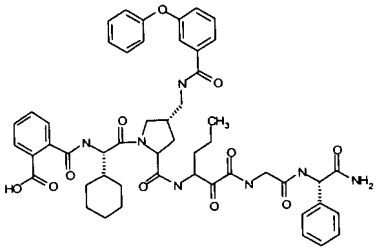


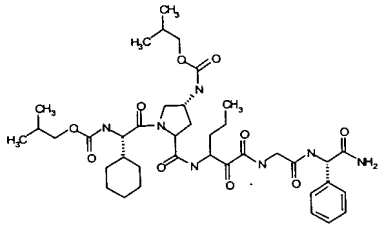


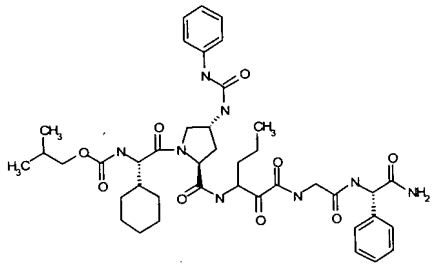


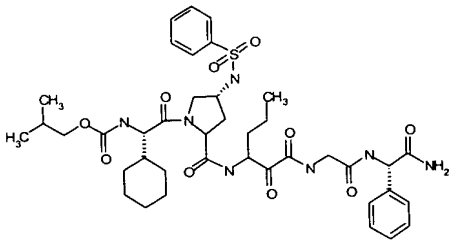


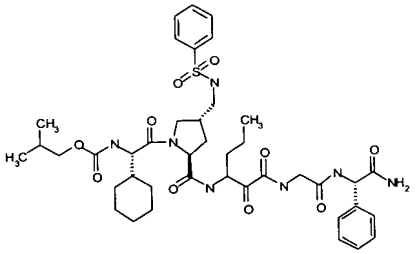


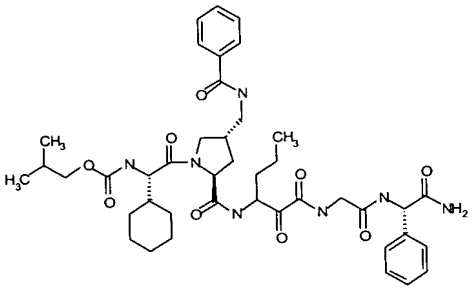


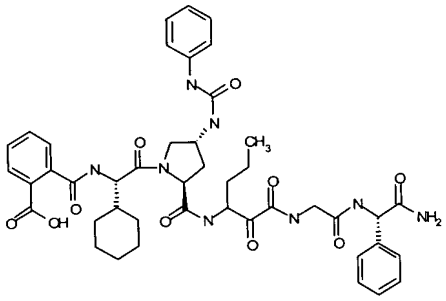


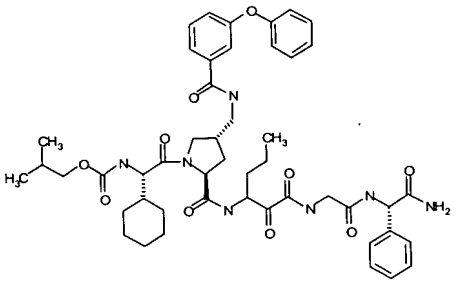


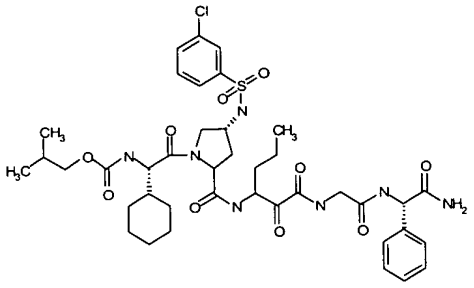


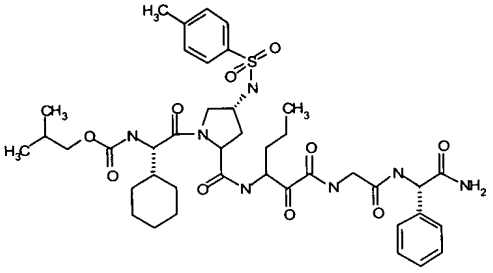


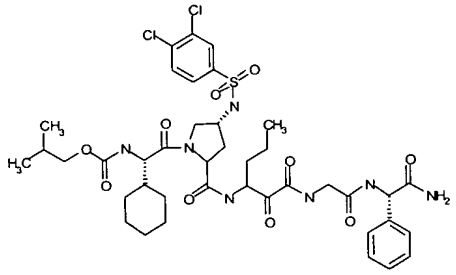


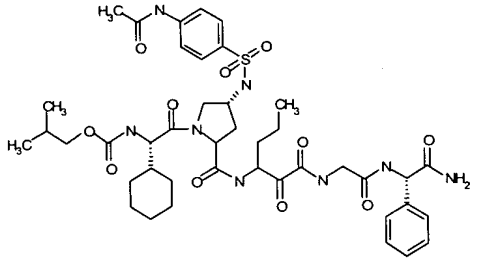


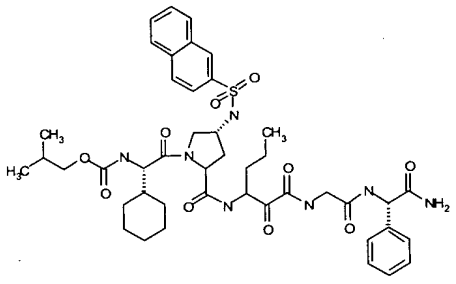


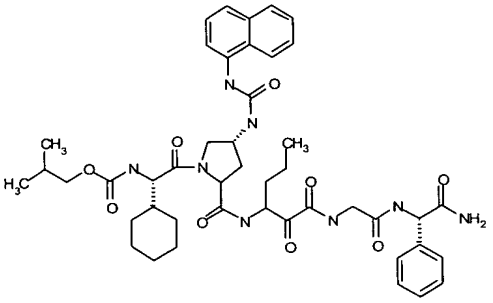


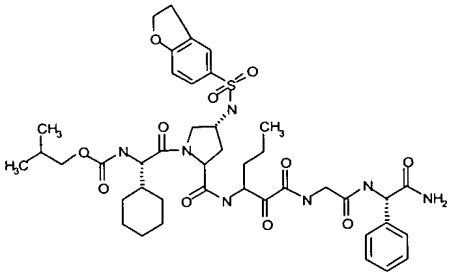


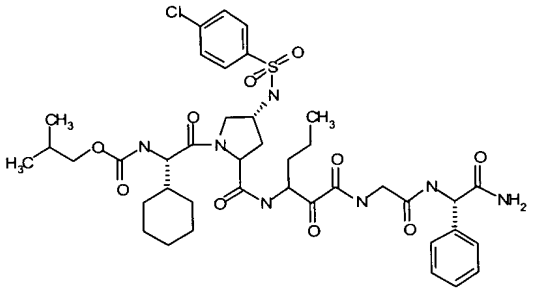


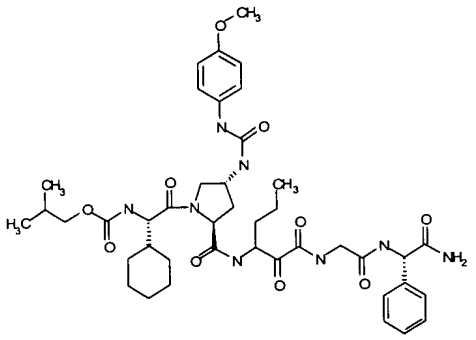


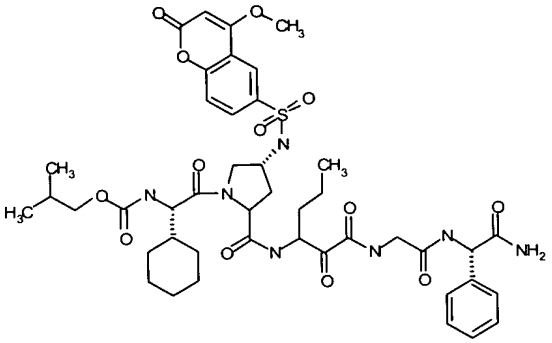


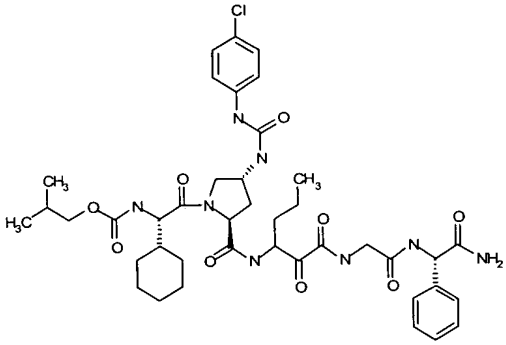


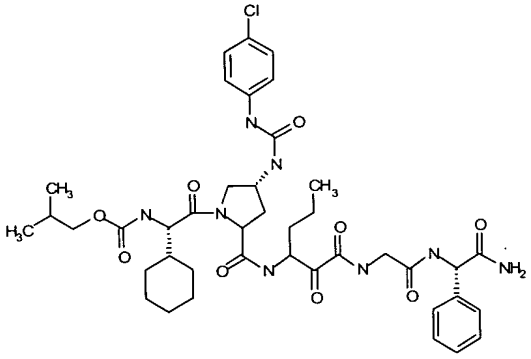


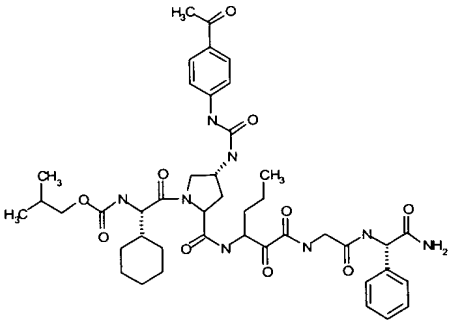


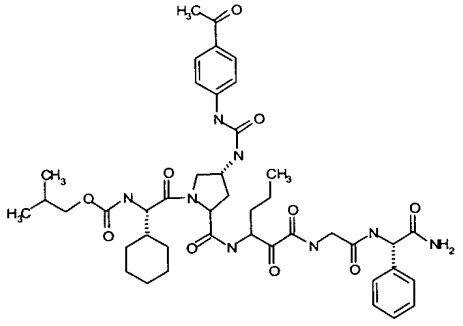


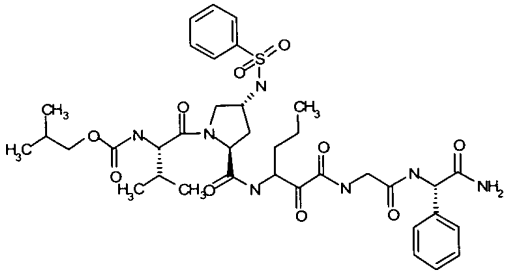


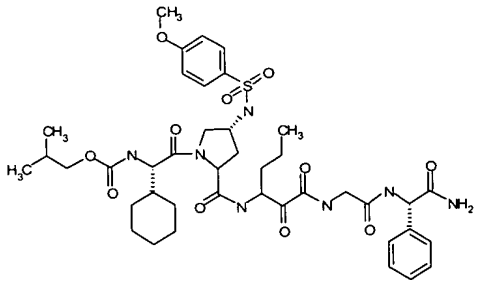


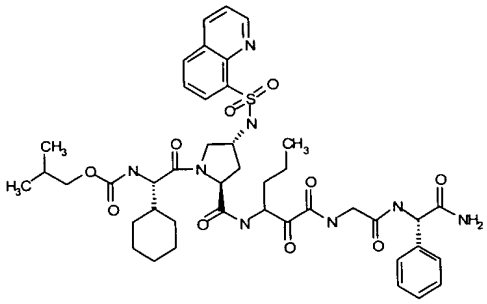


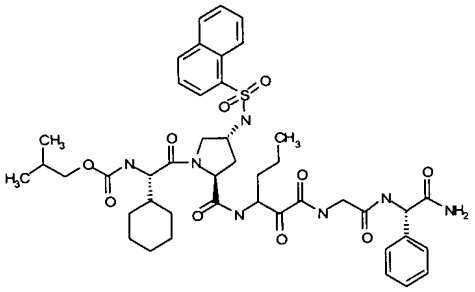


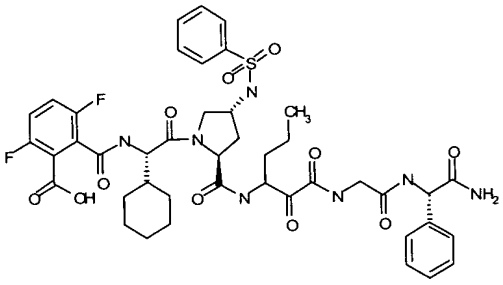


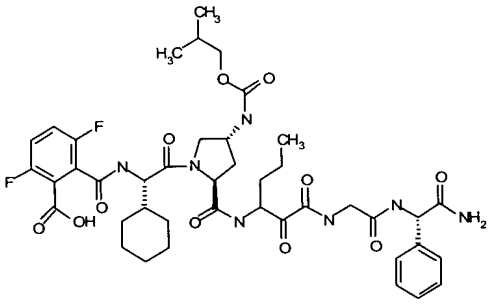


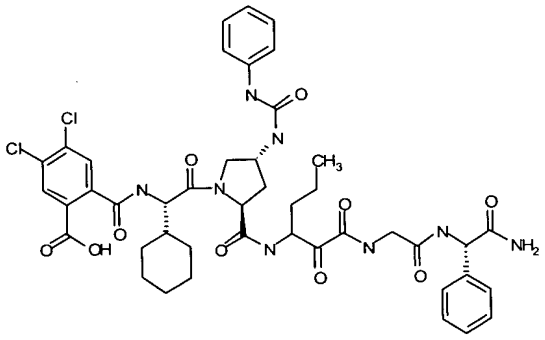


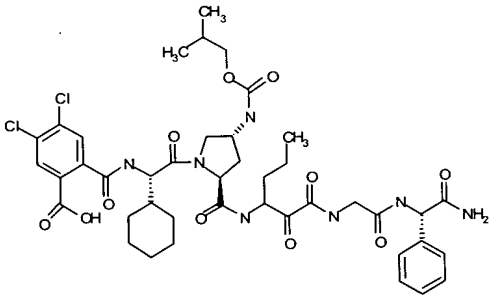


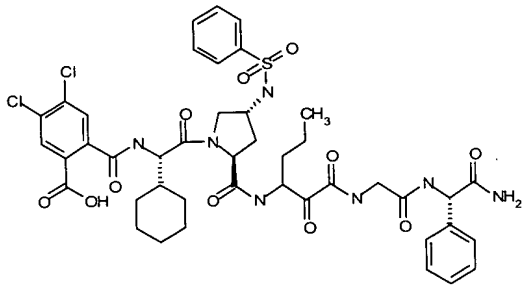


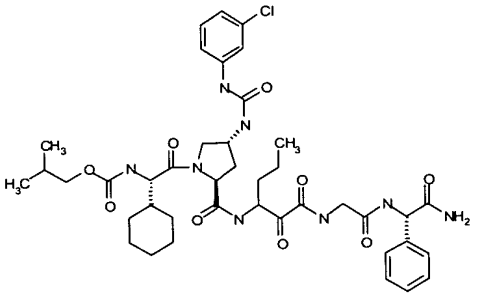


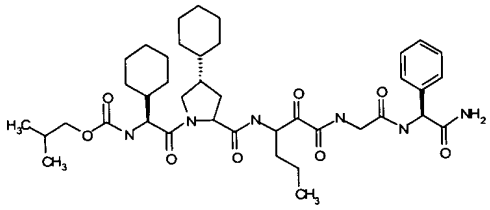


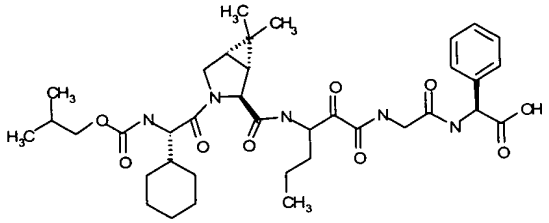


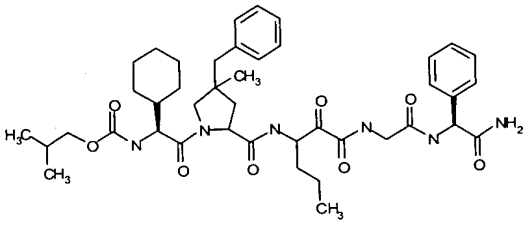


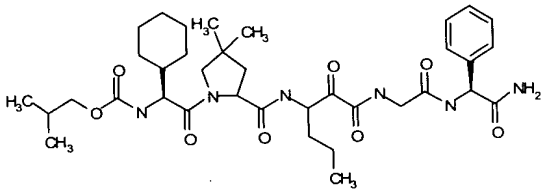


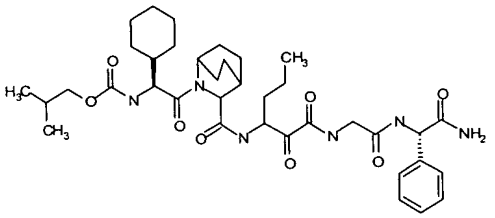


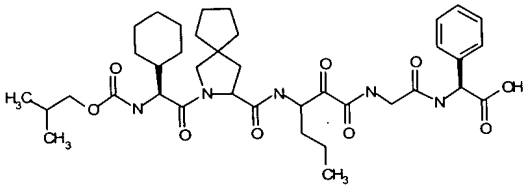


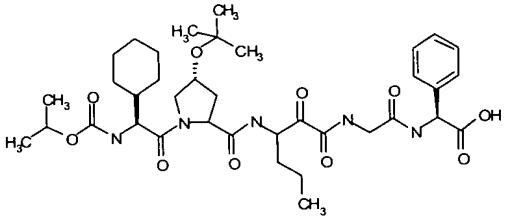


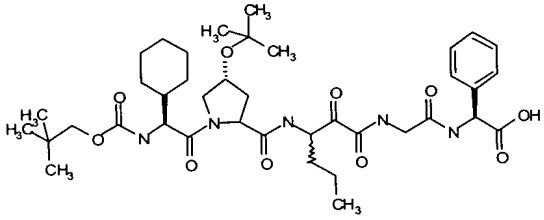


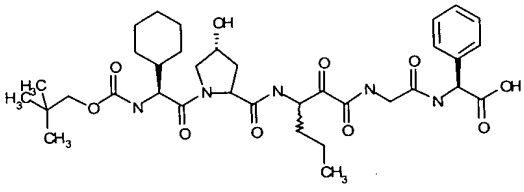


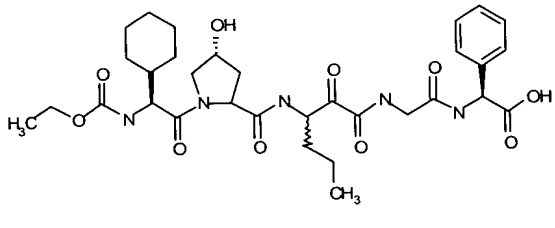


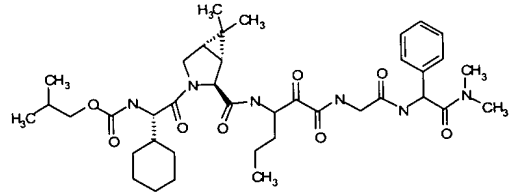


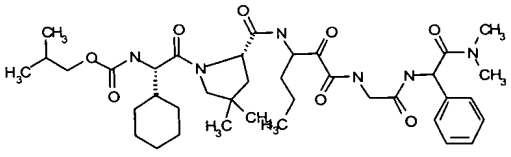


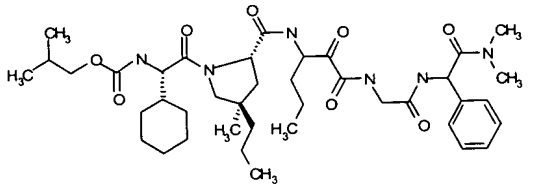


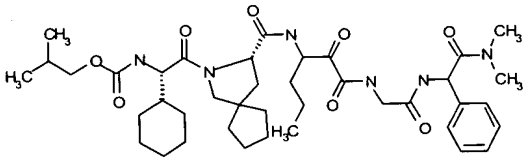


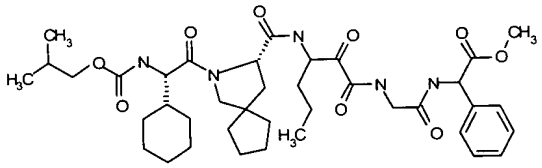


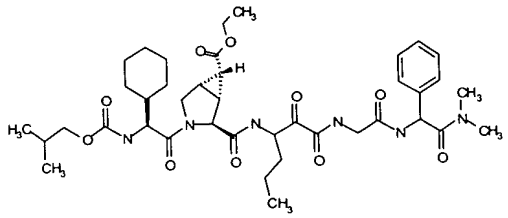


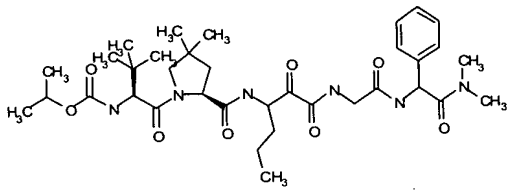


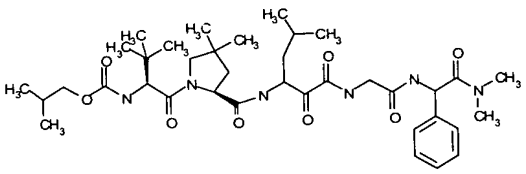


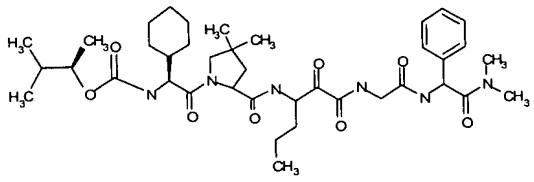


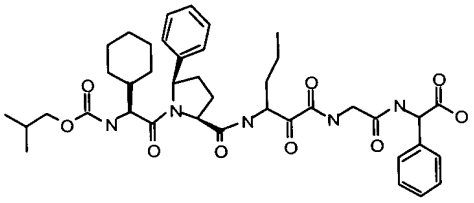


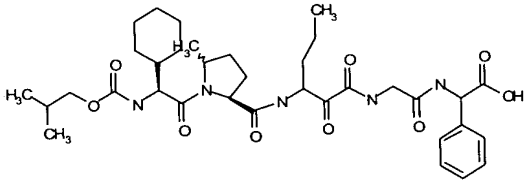


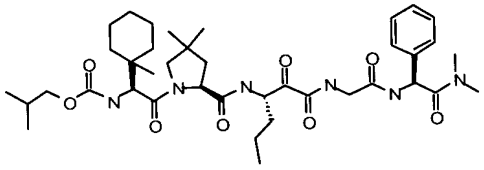


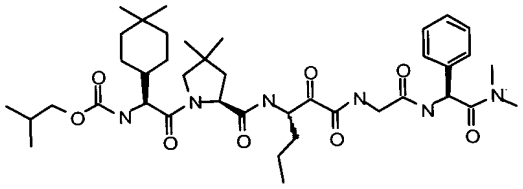


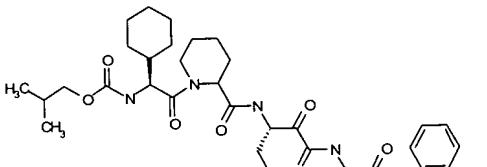


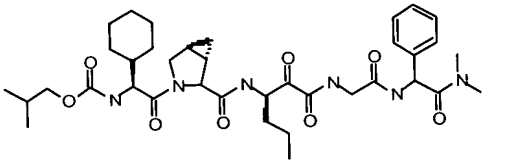


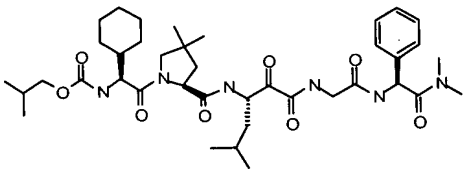


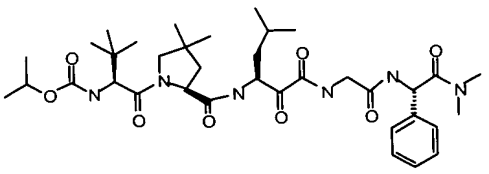


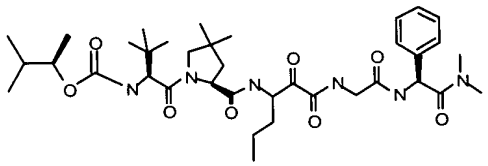


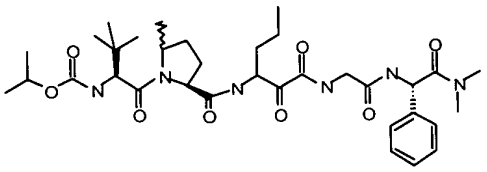


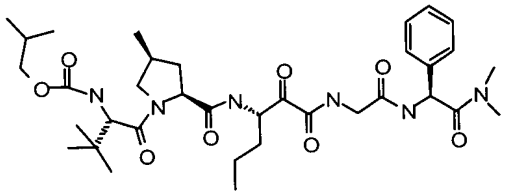


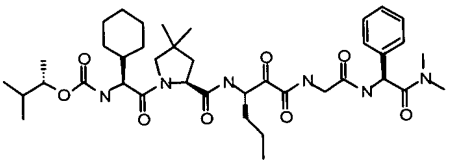


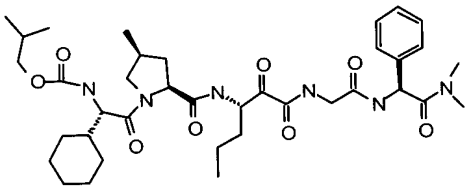


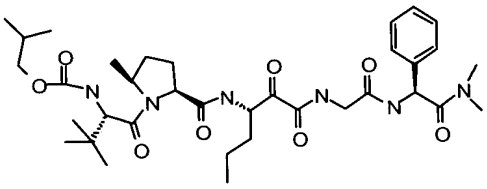


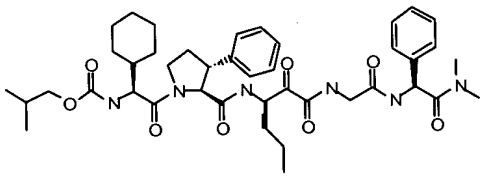


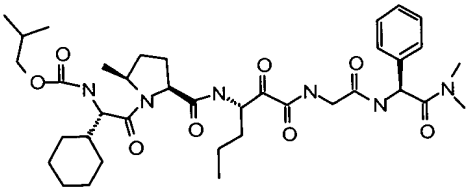


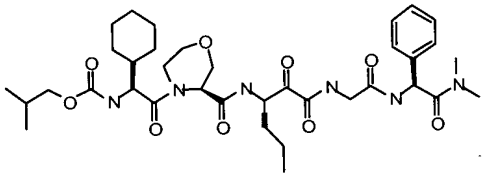


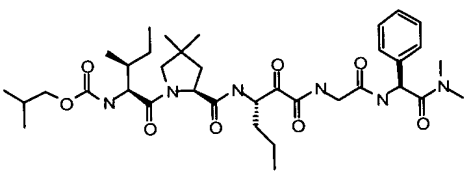


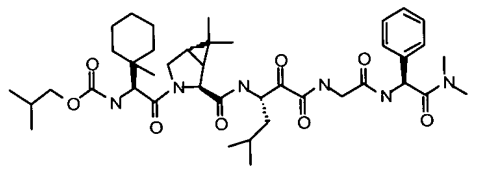


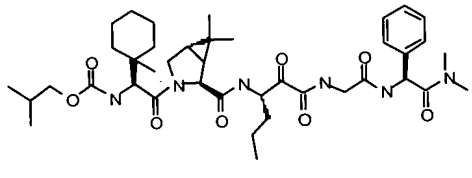


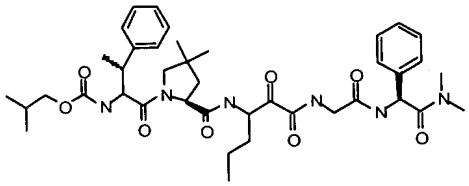


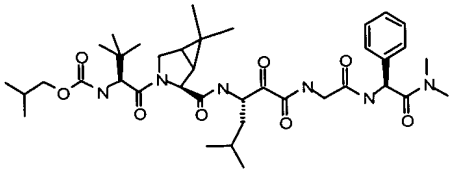


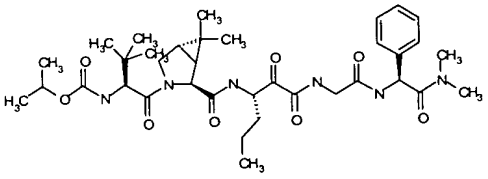


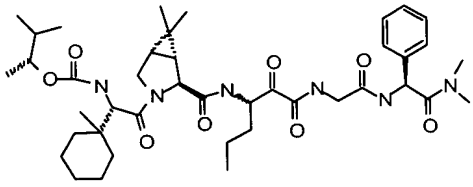


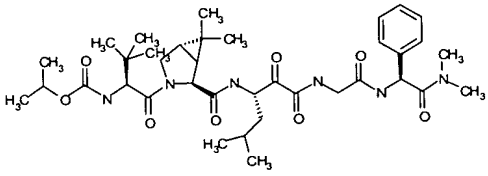


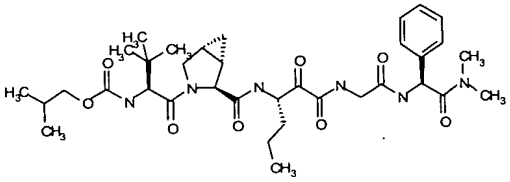


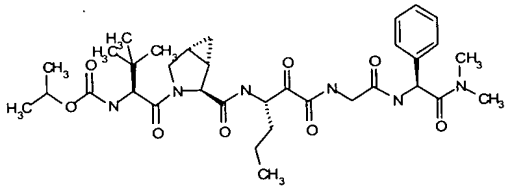


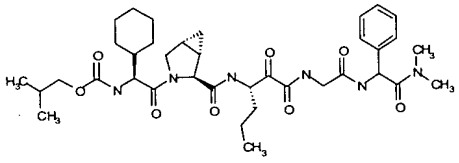


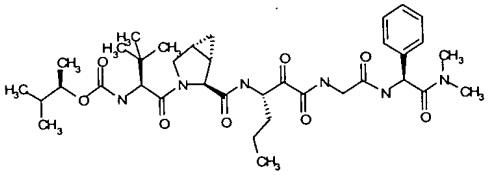


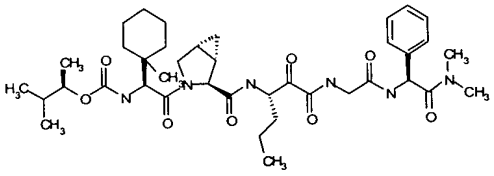


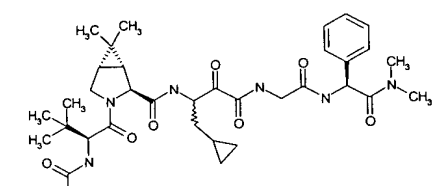


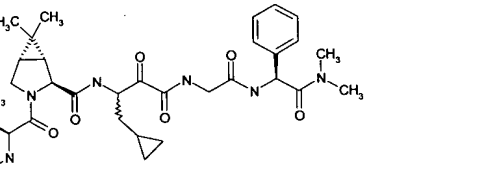


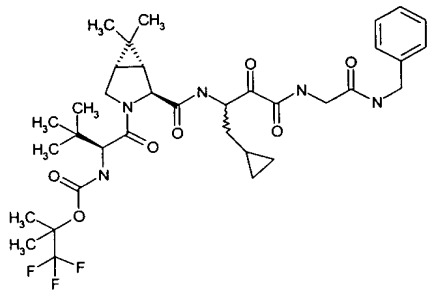


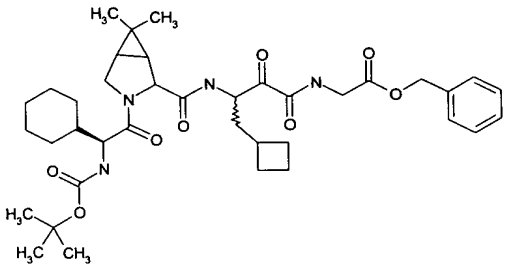


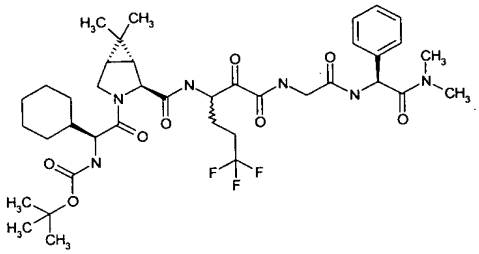


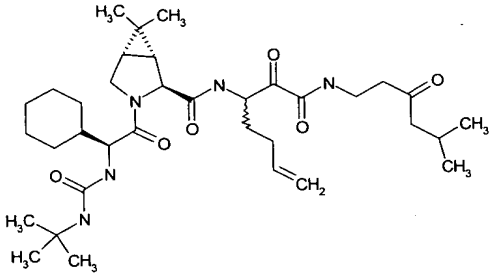


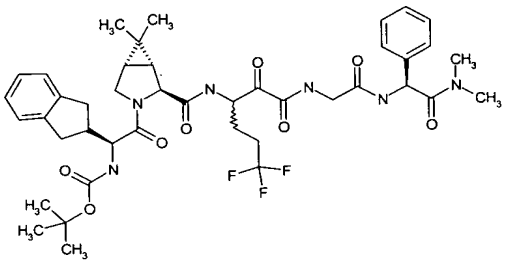


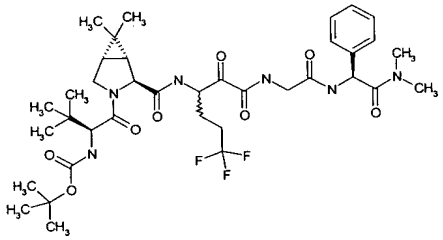


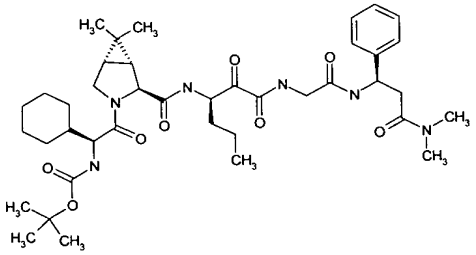


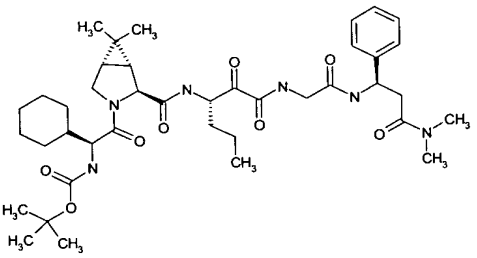


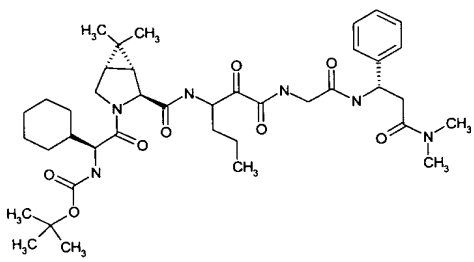


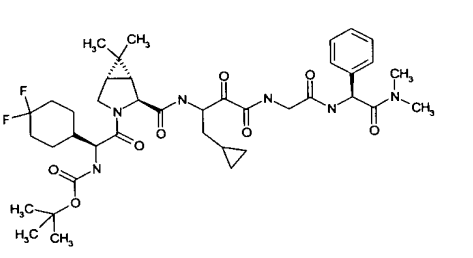


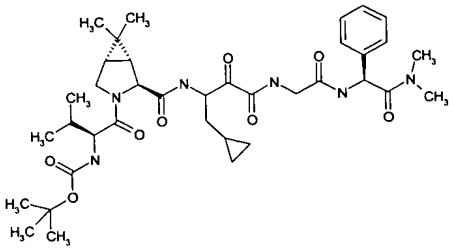


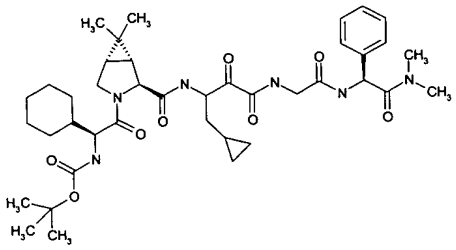


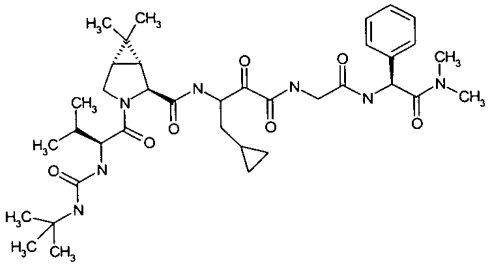


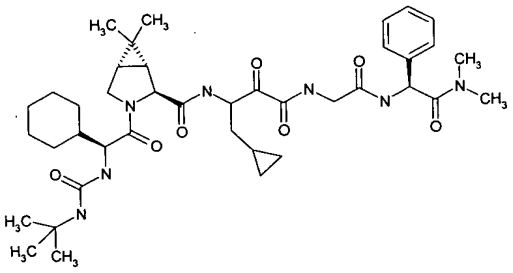


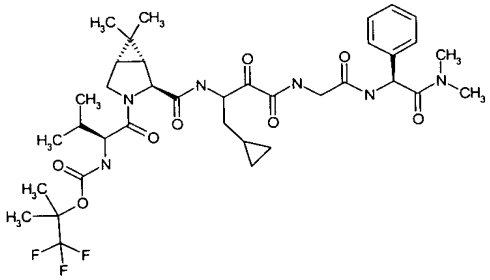


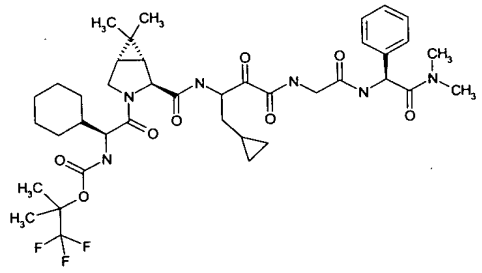


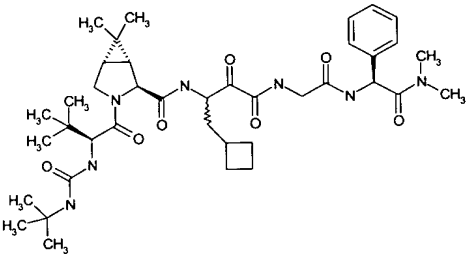


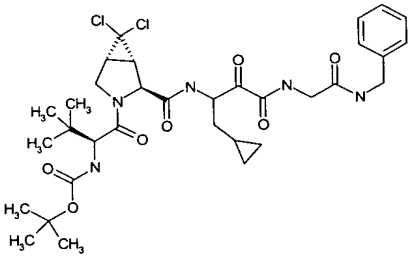


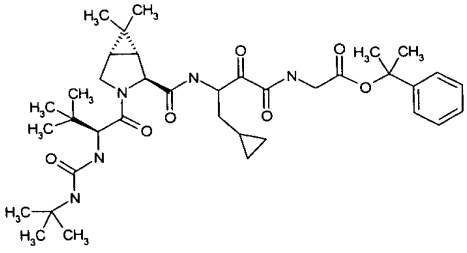


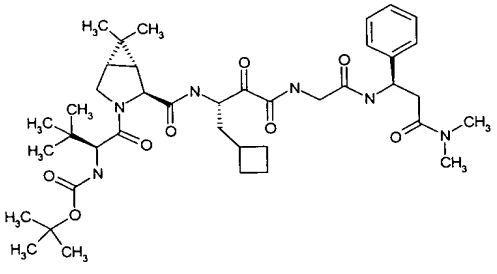


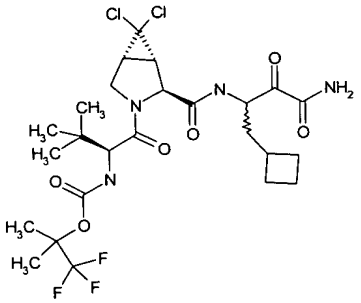


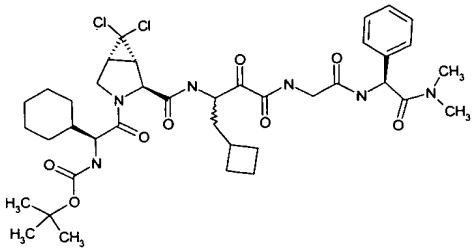


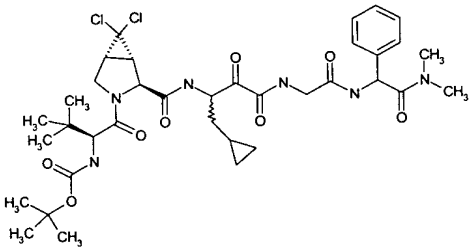


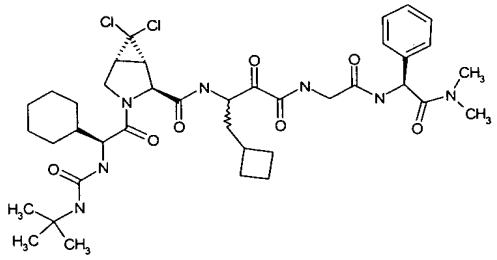


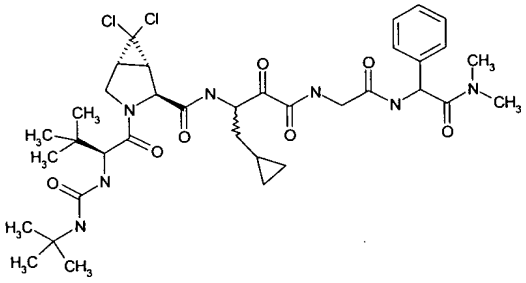


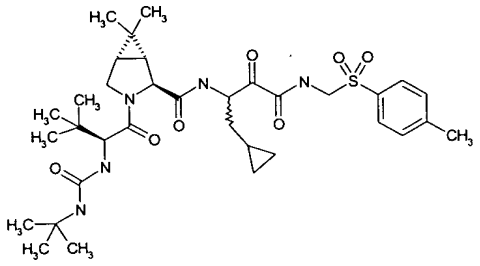


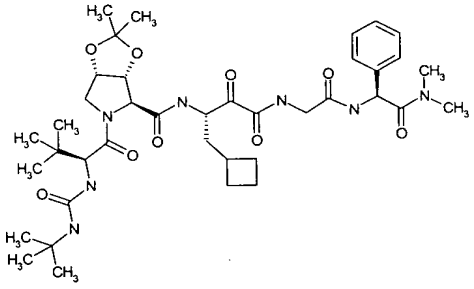


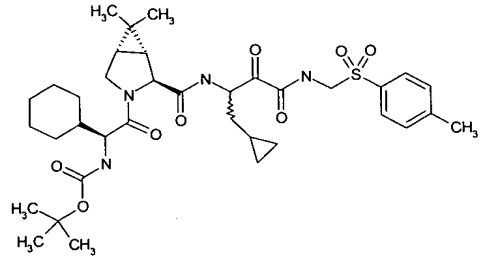


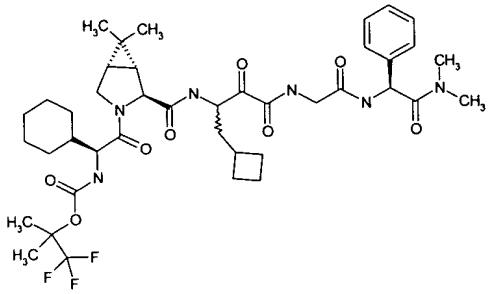


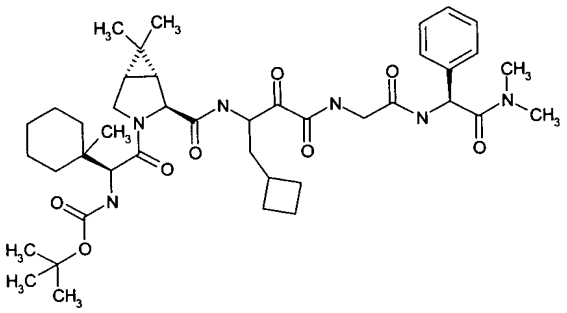


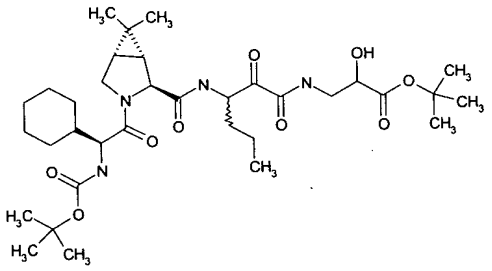


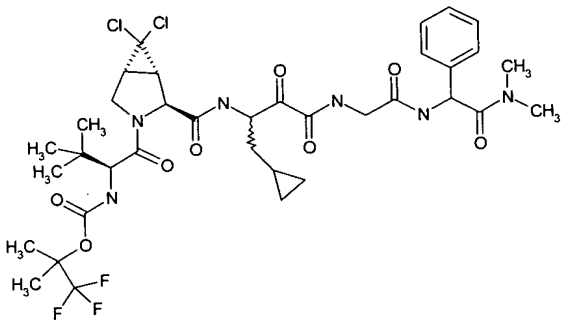


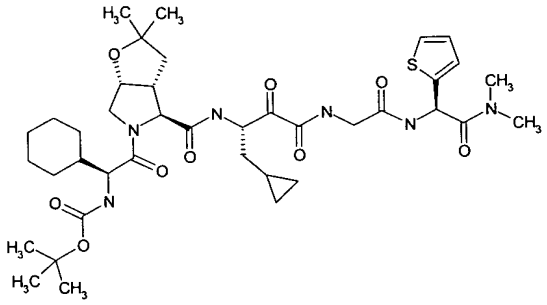


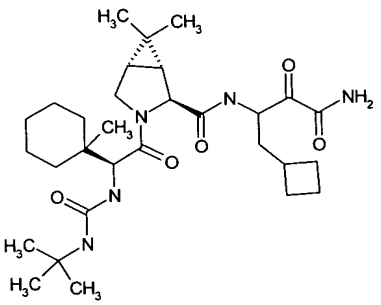


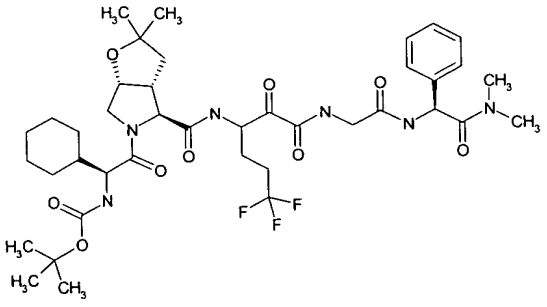


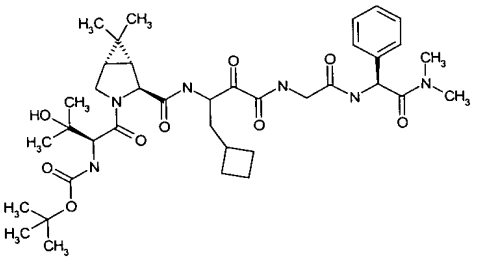


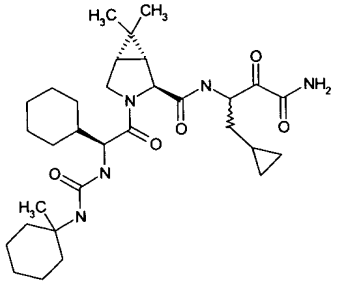


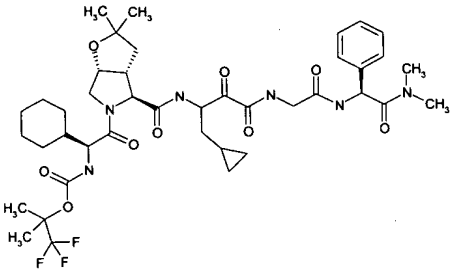


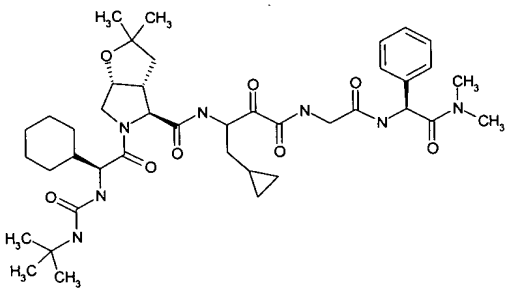


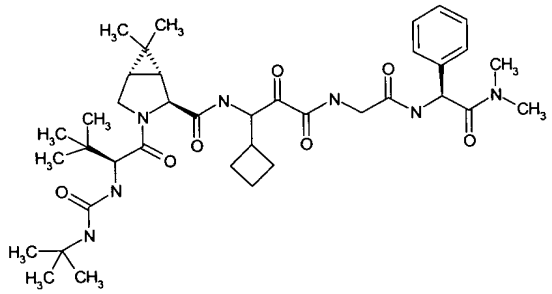


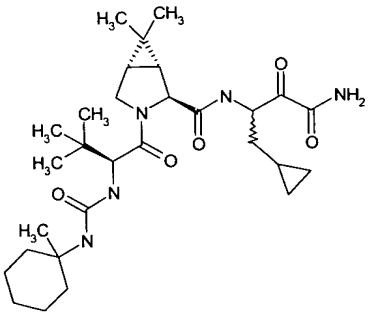


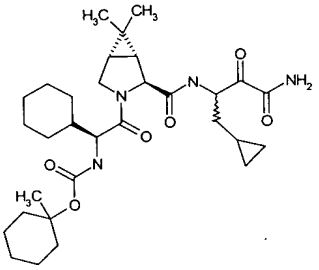


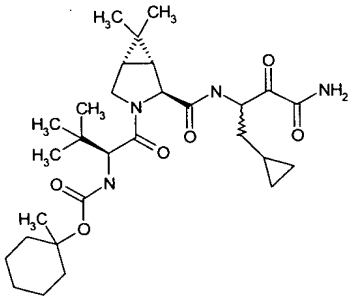


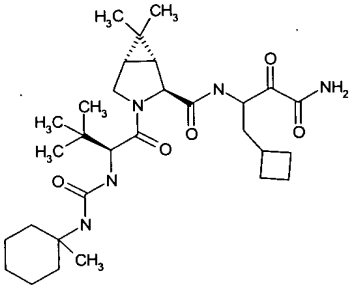


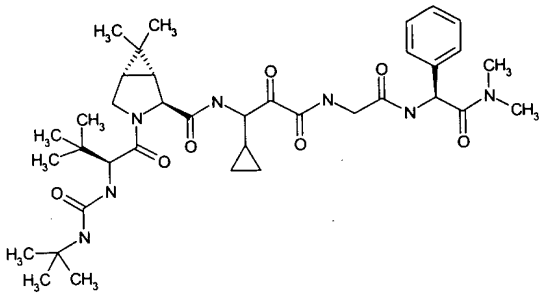


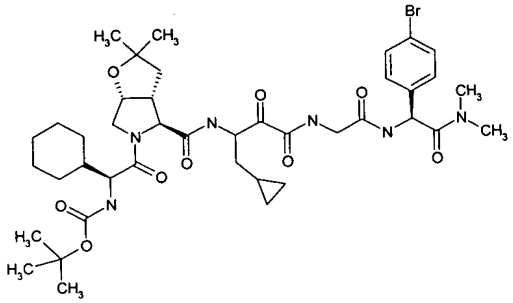


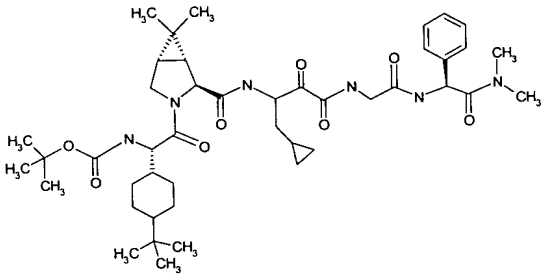


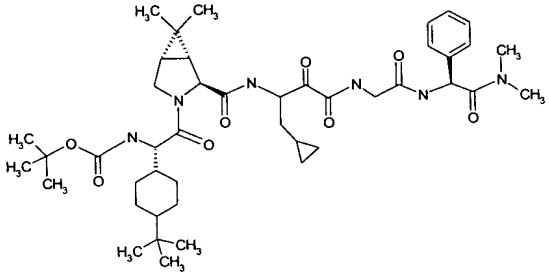


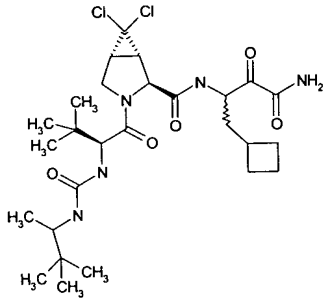


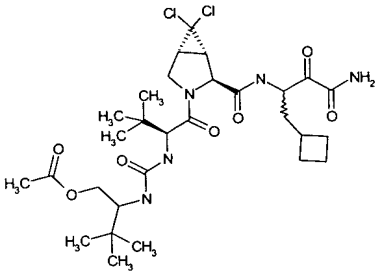


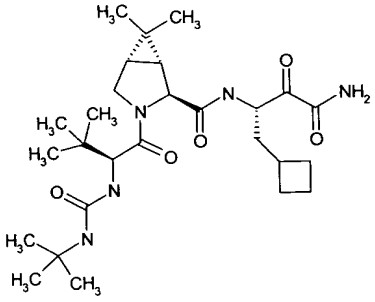


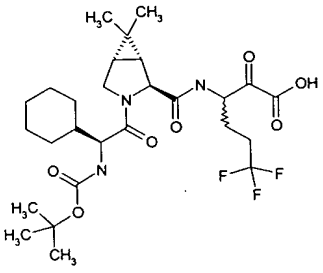


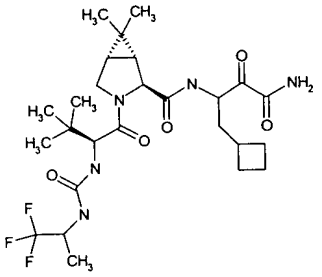


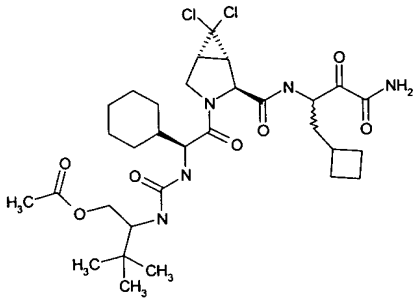


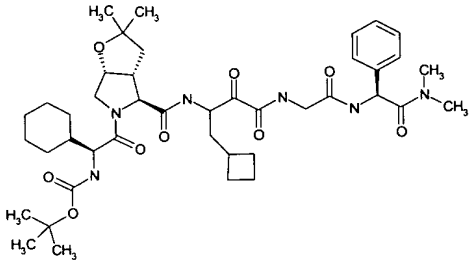


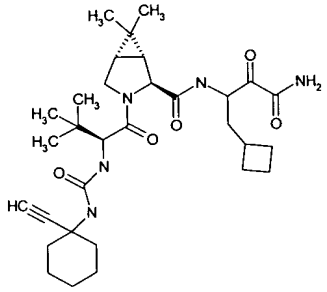


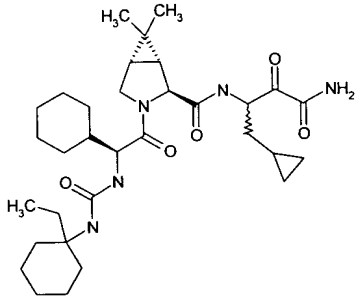


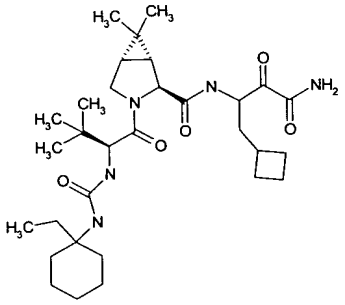


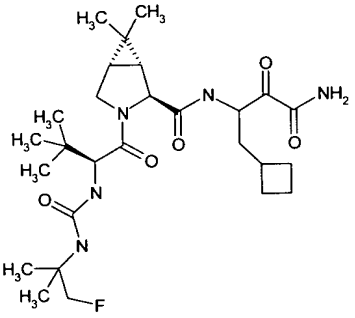


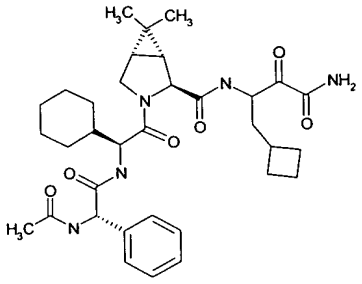


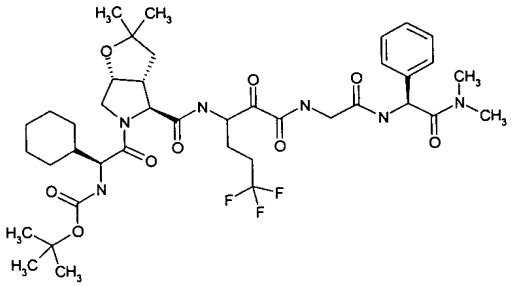


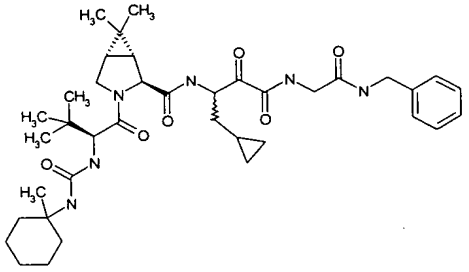


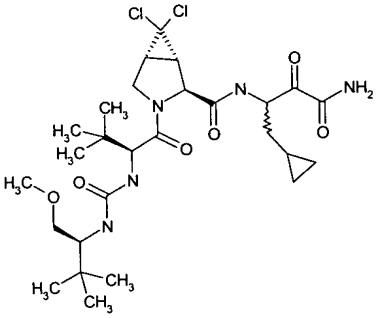


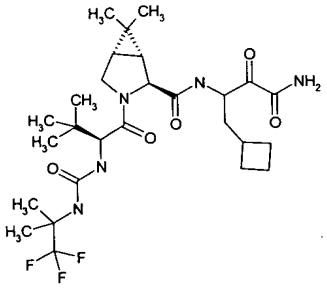


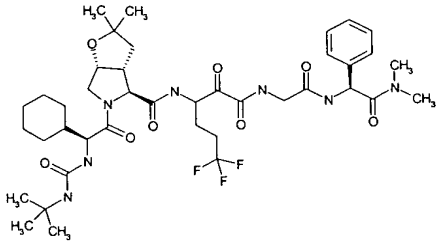


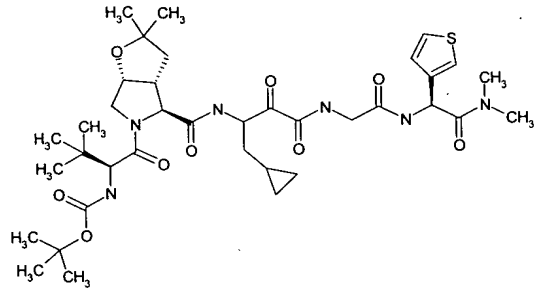


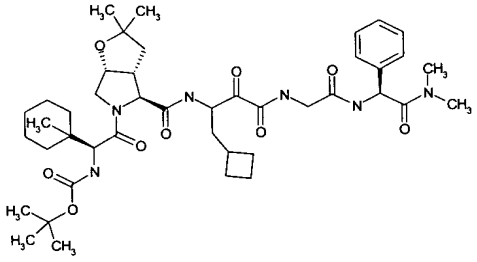


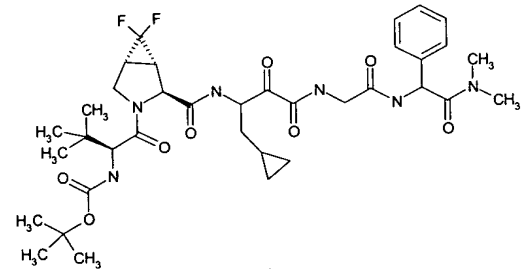


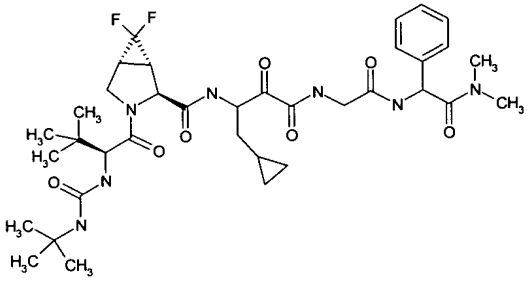


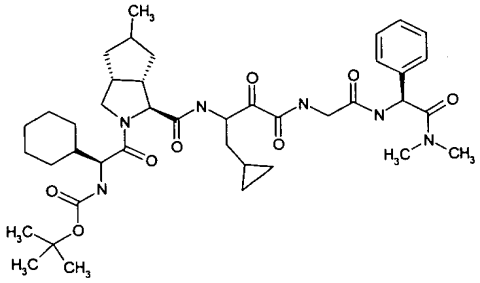


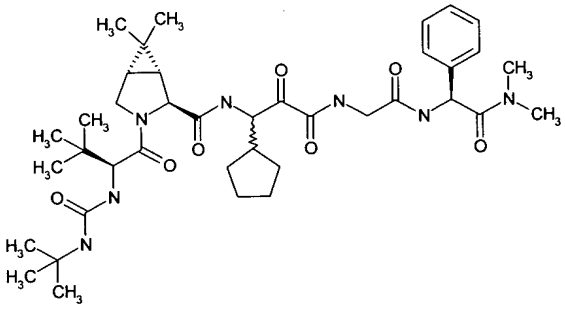


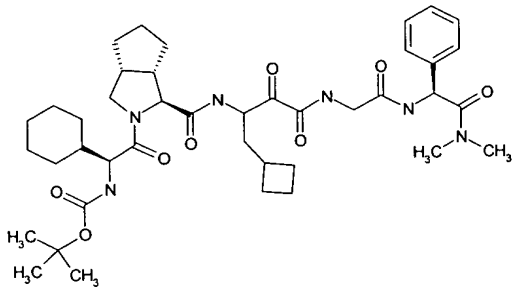


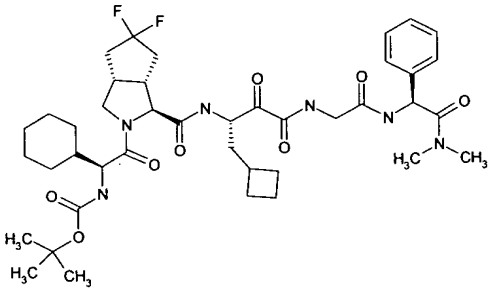


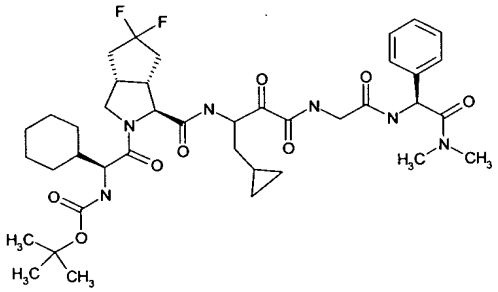


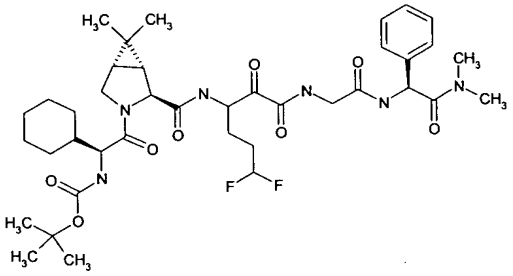


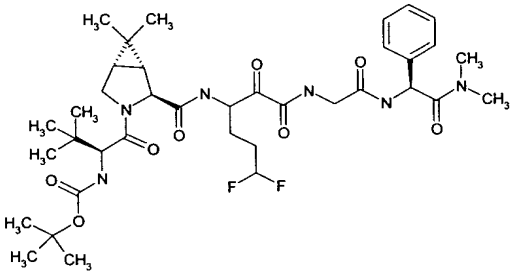


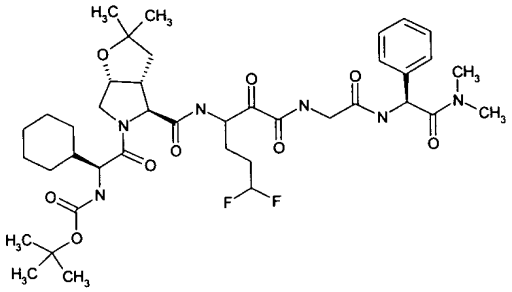


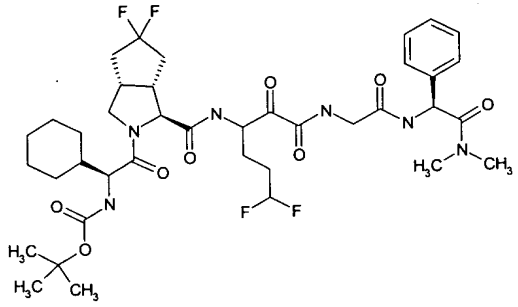


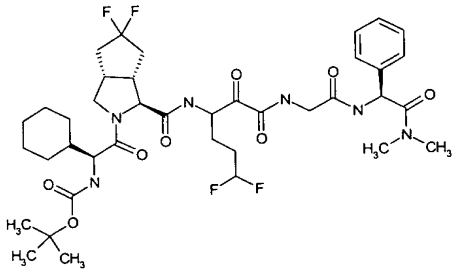


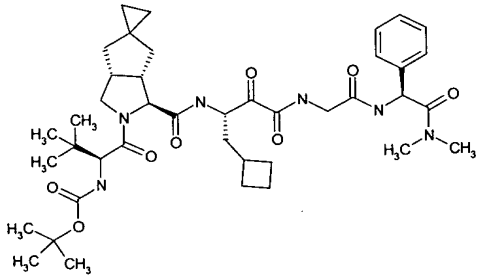


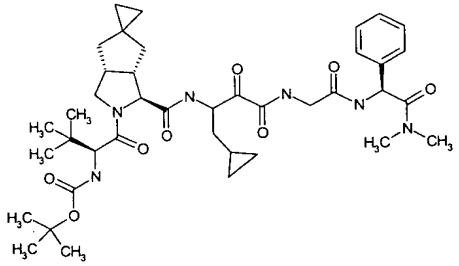


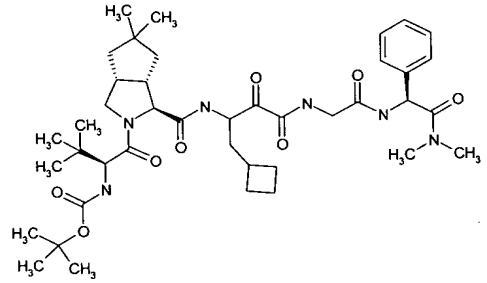


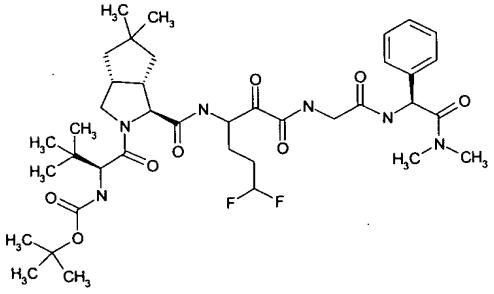


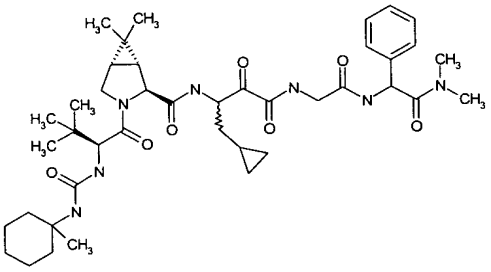


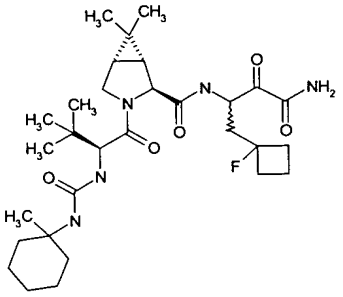


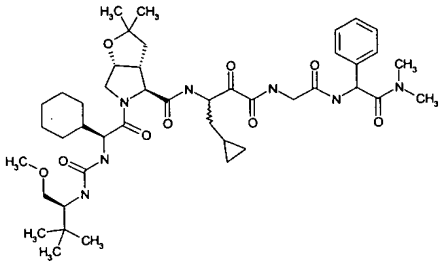


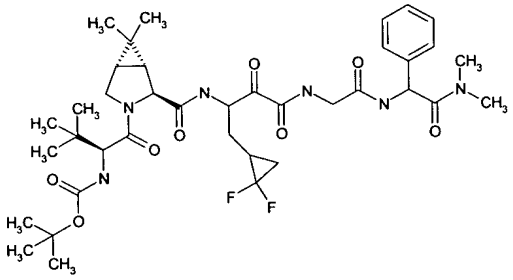


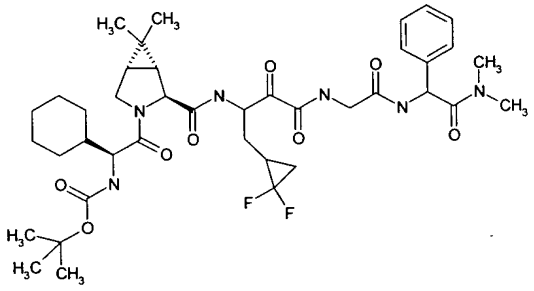


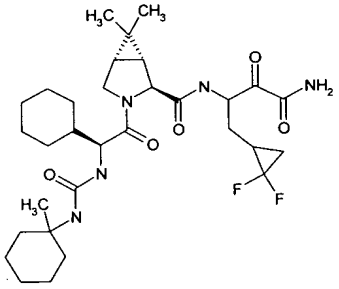


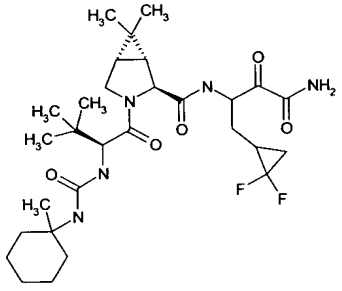


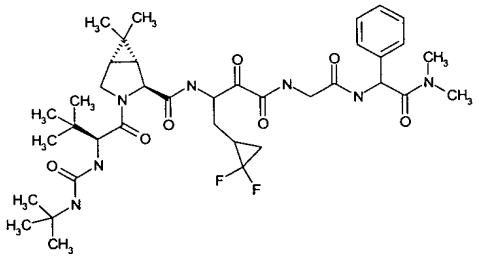


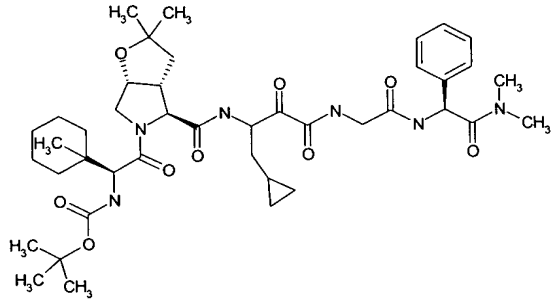


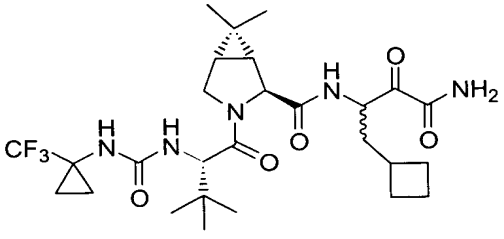












41. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus, said composition comprising therapeutically effective amount of one or more compounds in claim 40 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

42. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

43. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, still additionally containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

44. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 43, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon.

45. (previously presented) A method of treatment of a hepatitis C virus (HCV) associated disorder, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more compounds of claim 40.

46. (original) A method of modulating the activity of hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease, comprising contacting HCV protease with one or more compounds of claim 39.

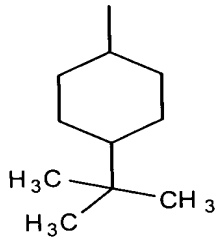
47. (original) A method of treating, preventing, or ameliorating one or more symptoms of hepatitis C, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more compounds of claim 40.

48. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein the HCV protease is the NS3/NS4a protease.

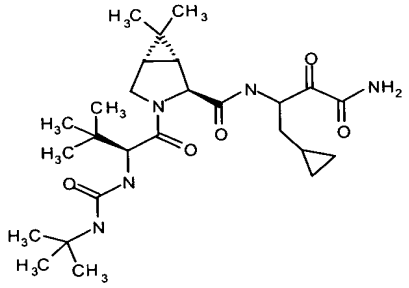
49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein the compound or compounds inhibit HCV NS3/NS4a protease.

50. (original) A method of modulating the processing of hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide, comprising contacting a composition containing the HCV polypeptide under conditions in which the polypeptide is processed with one or more compounds of claim 40.

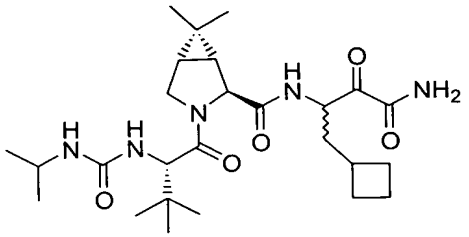
51. (original) The compound of claim 8, wherein R^3 is:



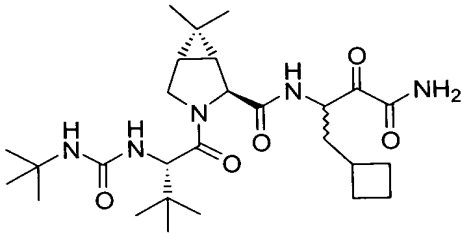
52. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



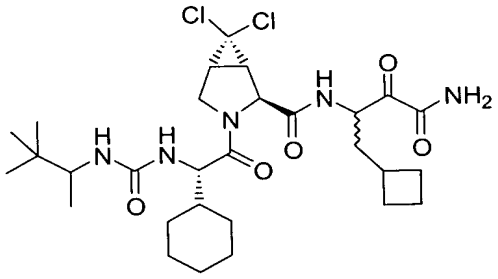
53. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



54. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

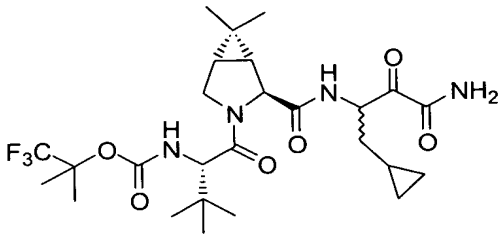


55. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

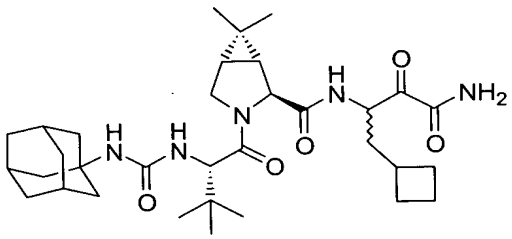


56. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of

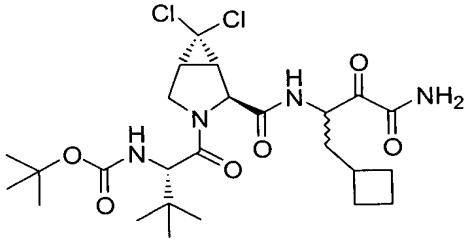
said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



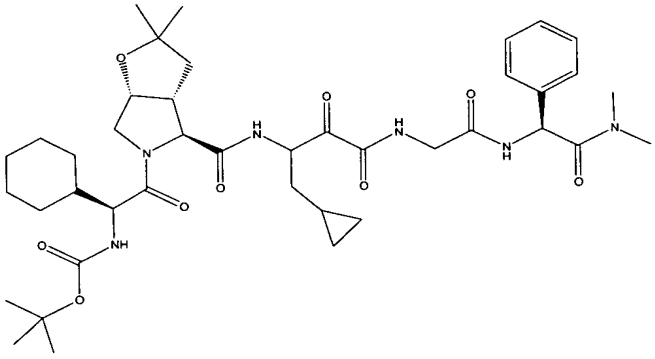
57. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



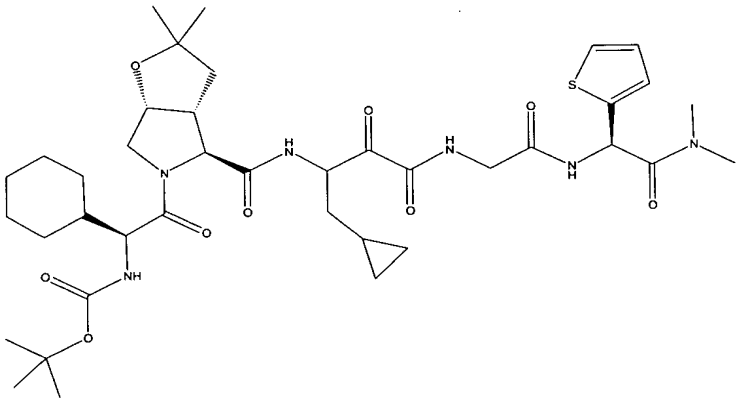
58. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



59. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

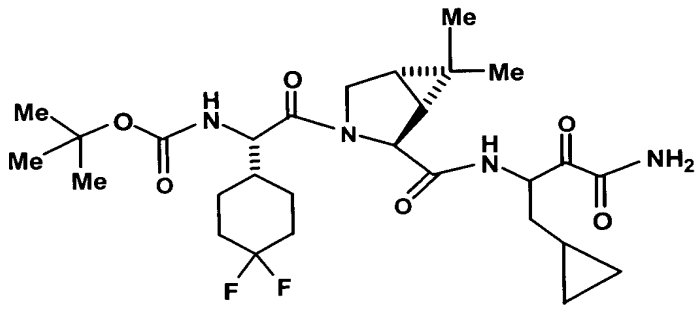


60. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

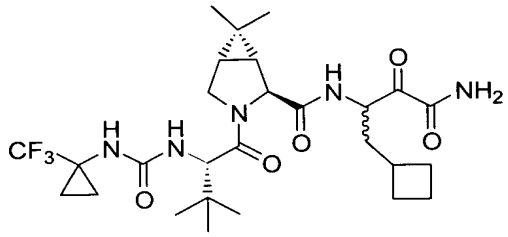


61. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates

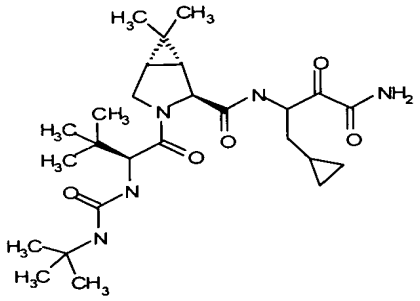
of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

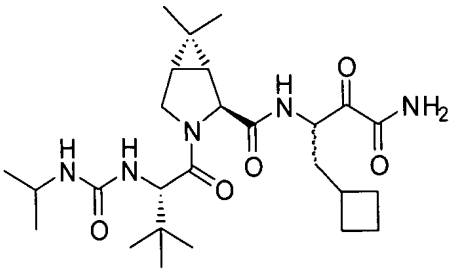


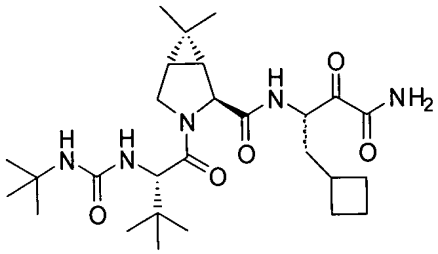
62. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

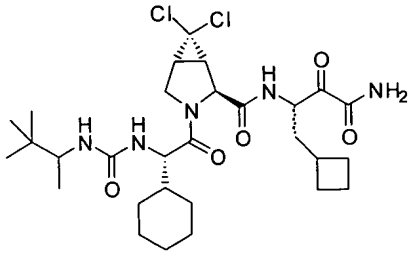


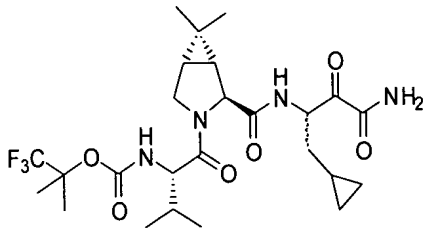
63. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the following:

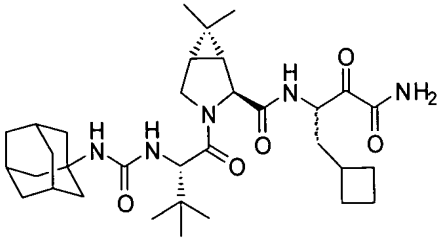


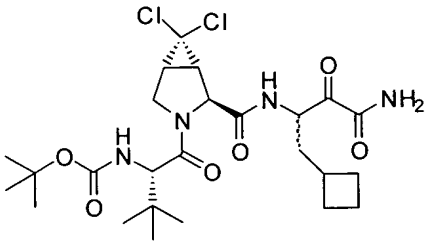


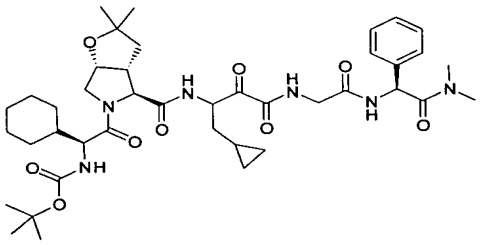


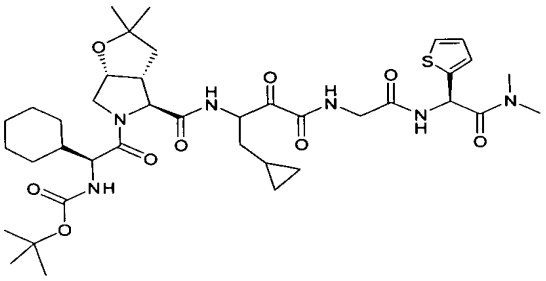


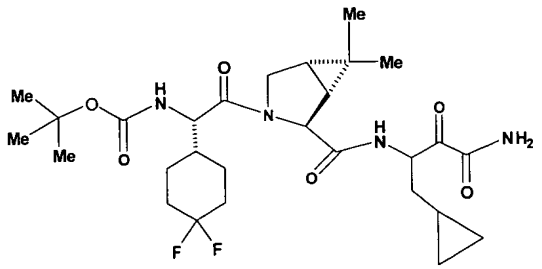


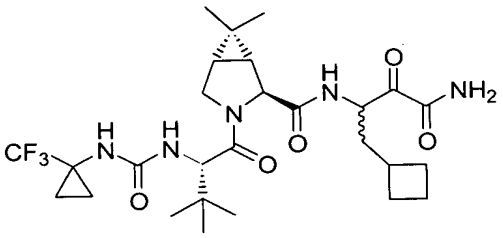










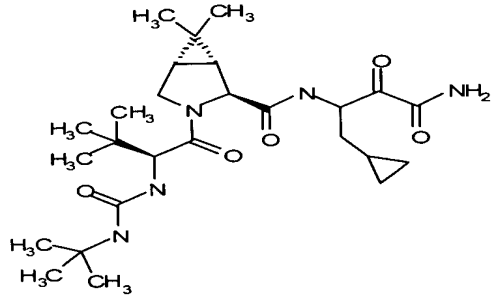


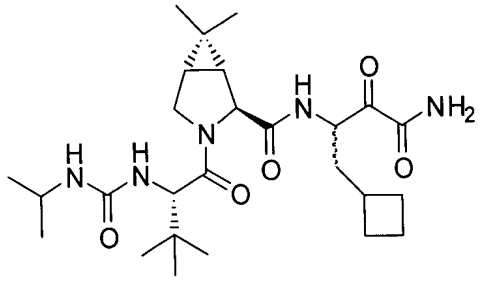
64. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 62, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

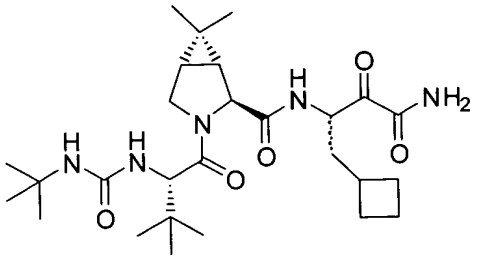
65. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 63, further containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

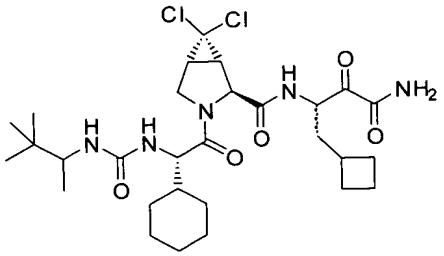
66. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 64, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon.

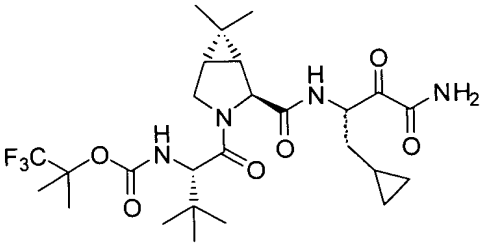
67. (previously presented) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, a pharmaceutical composition which comprises therapeutically effective amounts of a compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the following:

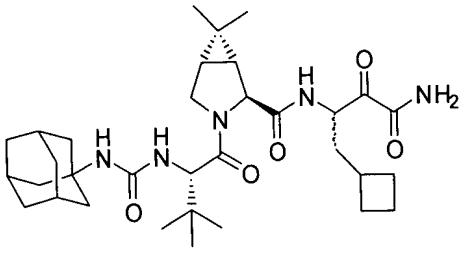


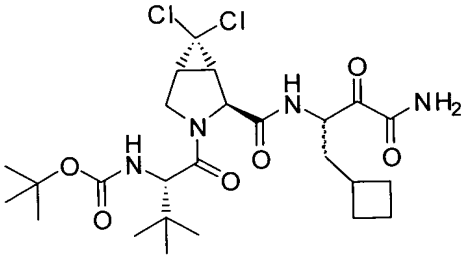


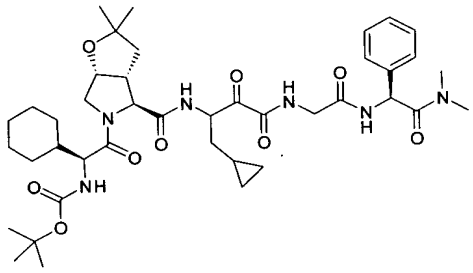


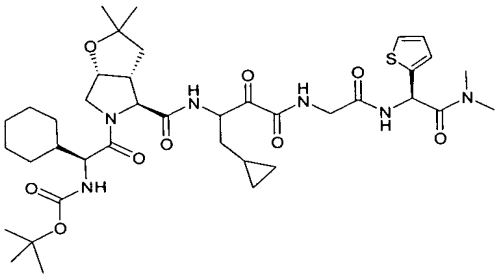


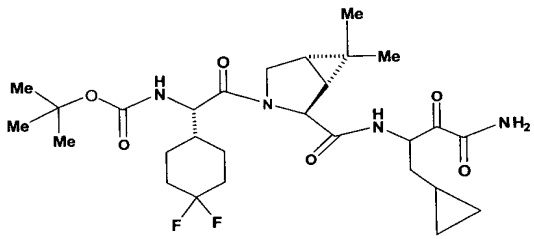


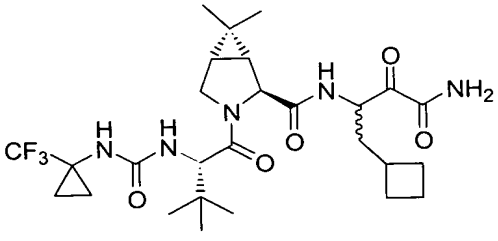




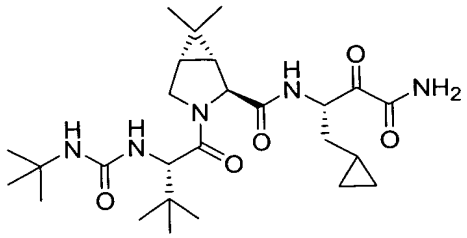




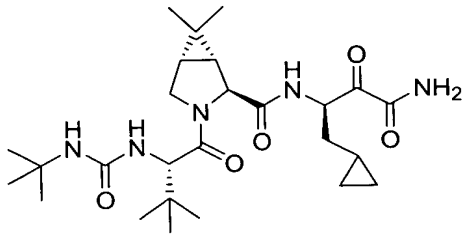




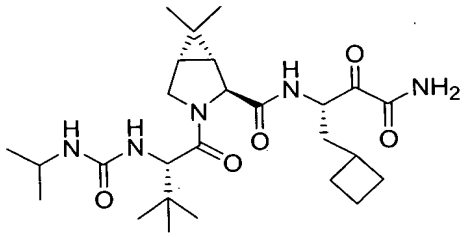
68. (previously presented) A compound of claim 52 having the formula shown below:



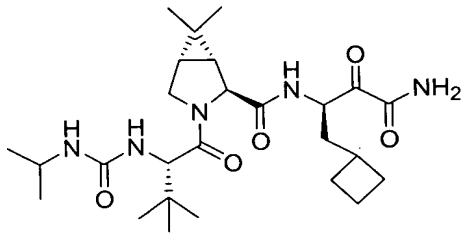
69. (previously presented) A compound of claim 52 having the formula shown below:



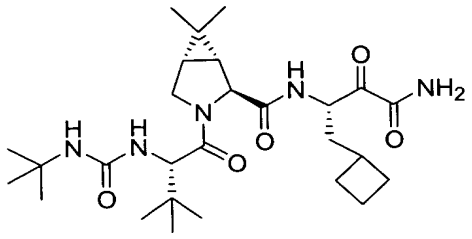
70. (previously presented) A compound of claim 53 having the formula shown below:



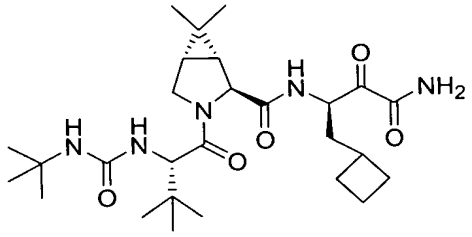
71. (previously presented) A compound of claim 53 having the formula shown below:



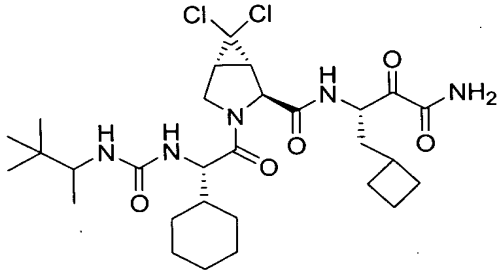
72. (previously presented) A compound of claim 54 having the formula shown below:



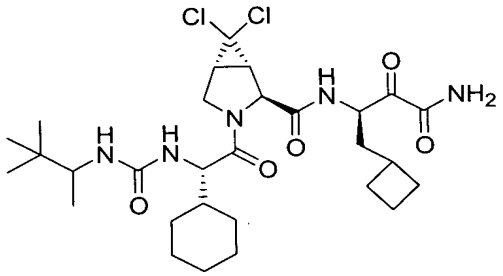
73. (previously presented) A compound of claim 54 having the formula shown below:



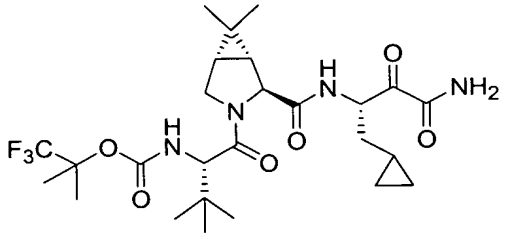
74. (previously presented) A compound of claim 55 having the formula shown below:



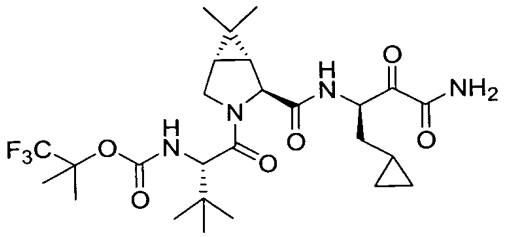
75. (previously presented) A compound of claim 55 having the formula shown below:



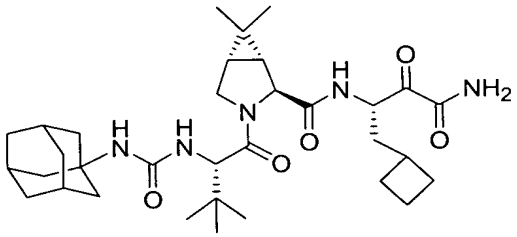
76. (previously presented) A compound of claim 56 having the formula shown below:



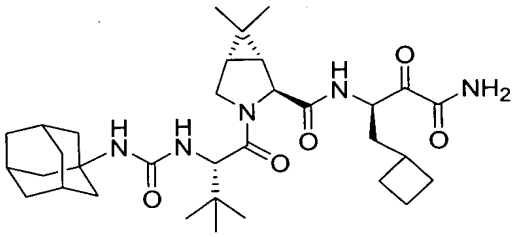
77. (previously presented) A compound of claim 56 having the formula shown below:



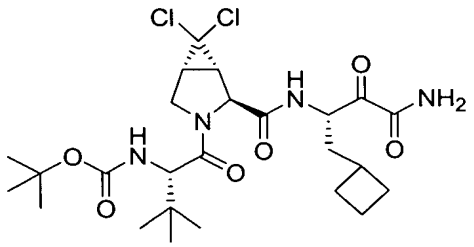
78. (previously presented) A compound of claim 57 having the formula shown below:



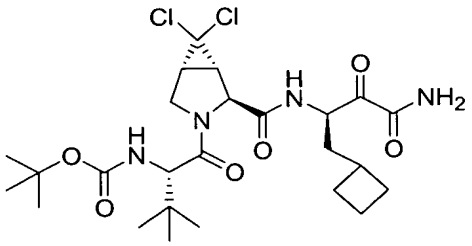
79. (previously presented) A compound of claim 57 having the formula shown below:



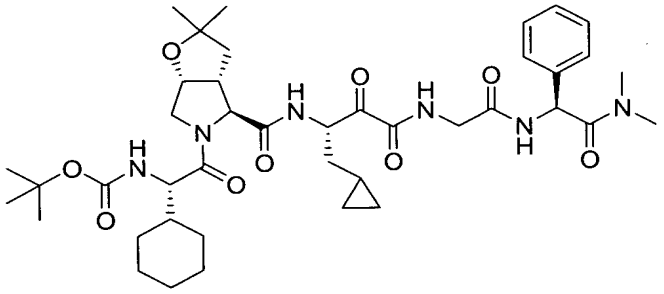
80. (previously presented) A compound of claim 58 having the formula shown below:



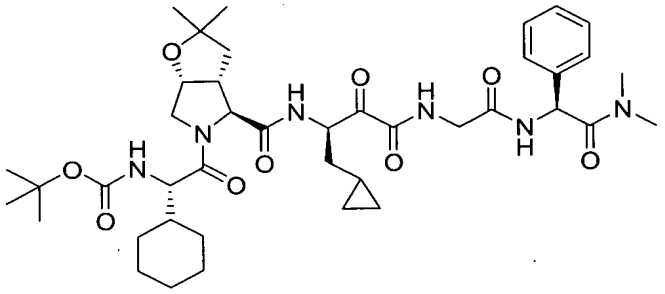
81. (previously presented) A compound of claim 58 having the formula shown below:



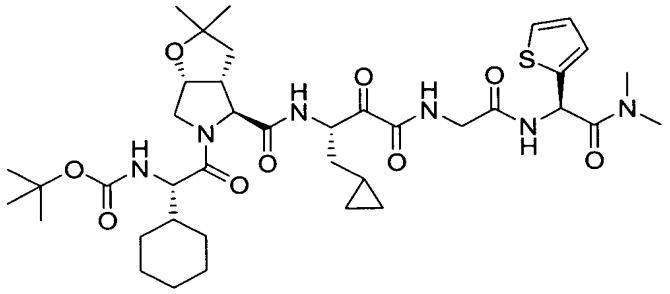
82. (previously presented) A compound of claim 59 having the formula shown below:



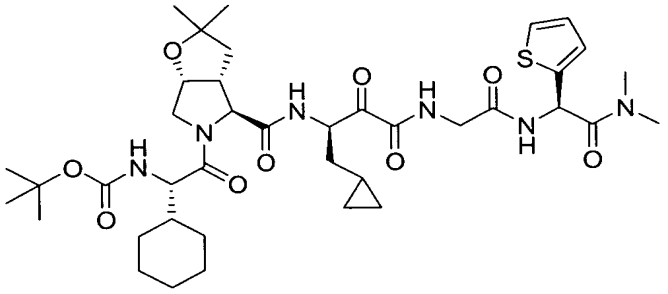
83. (previously presented) A compound of claim 59 having has the formula shown below:



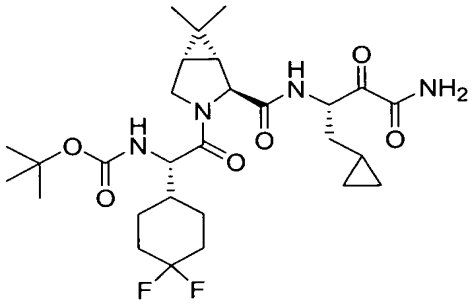
84. (previously presented) A compound of claim 60 having the formula shown below:



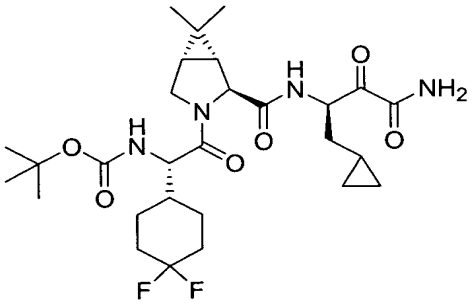
85. (previously presented) A compound of claim 60 having the formula shown below:



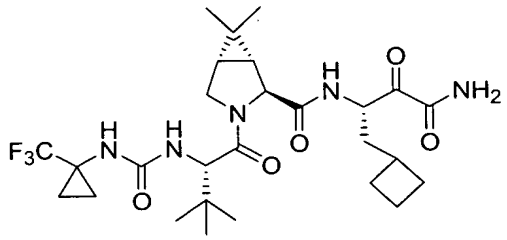
86. (previously presented) A compound of claim 61 having the formula shown below:



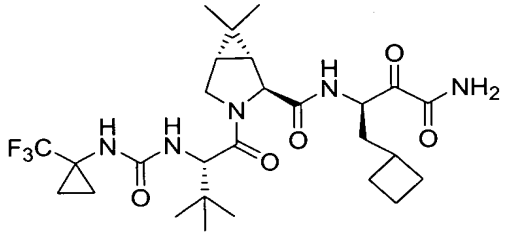
87. (previously presented) A compound of claim 61 having the formula shown below:



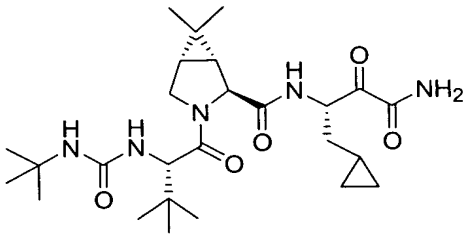
88. (previously presented) A compound of claim 62 having the formula shown below:

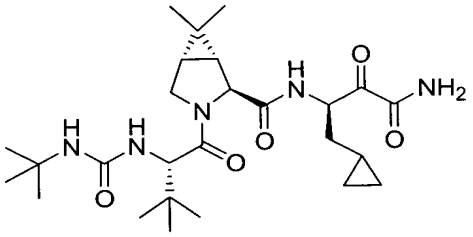


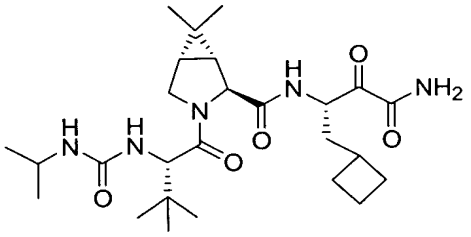
89. (previously presented) A compound of claim 62 having the formula shown below:

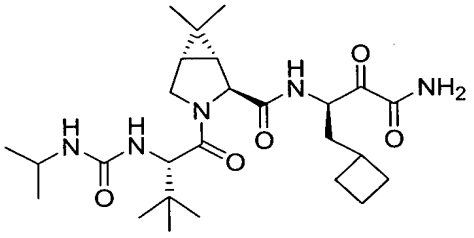


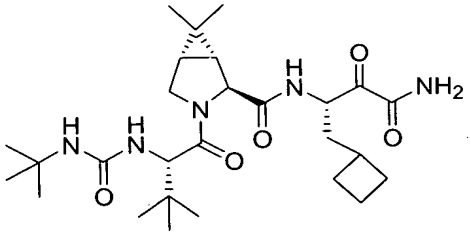
90. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 63, wherein said compound is selected from the following:

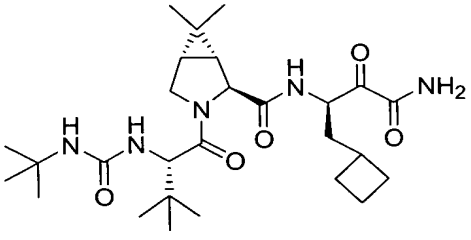


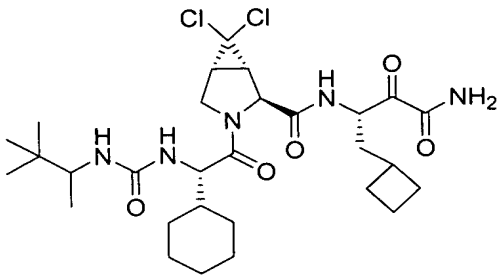


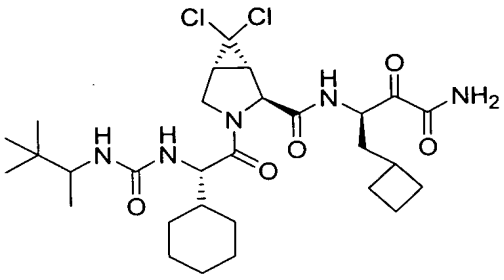


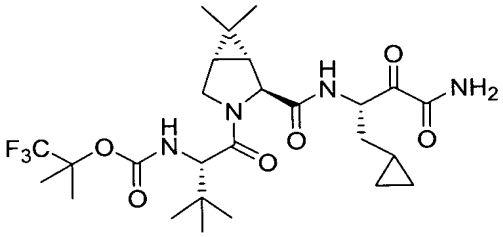


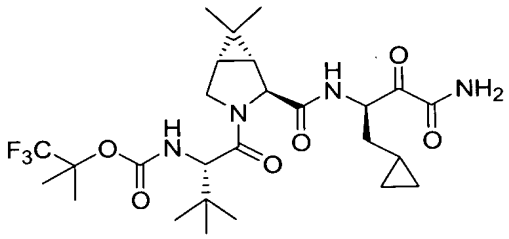


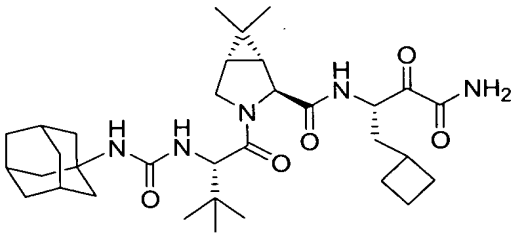


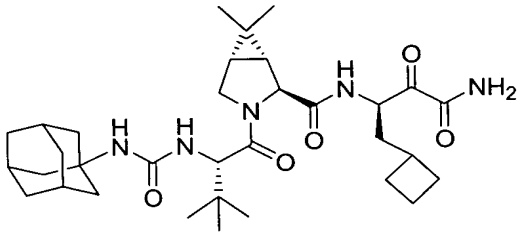


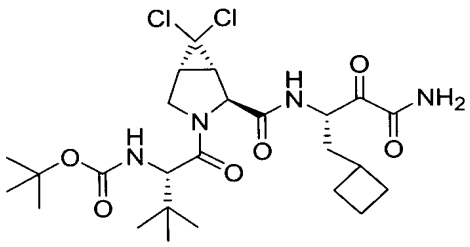


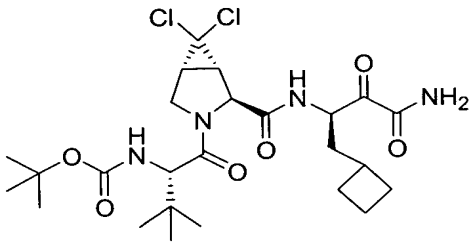


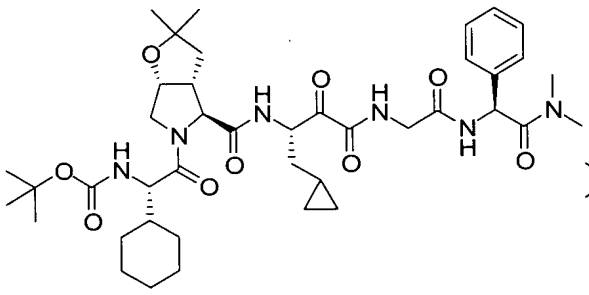


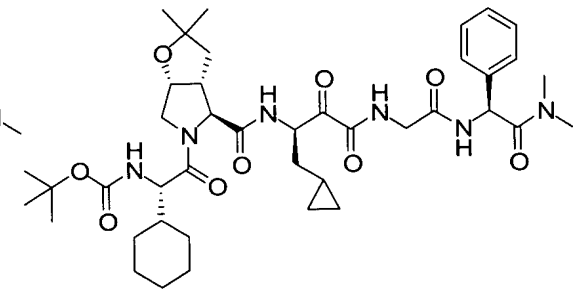


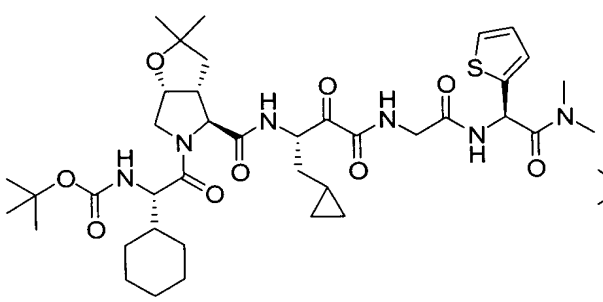


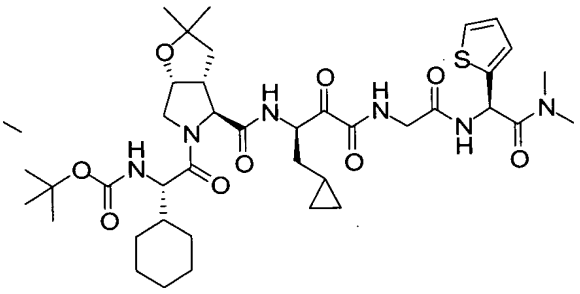


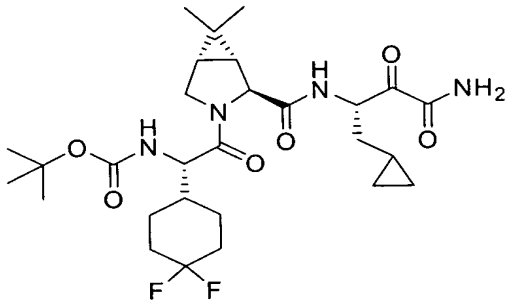


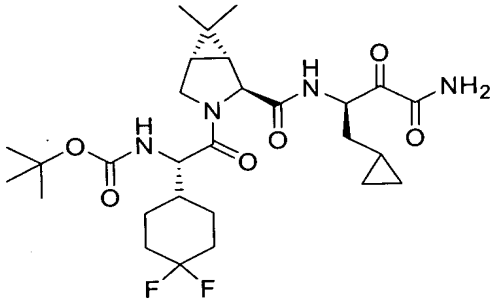


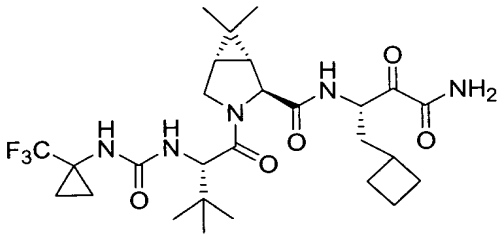


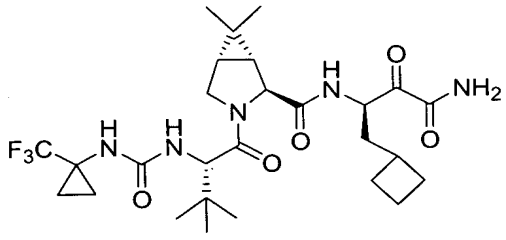










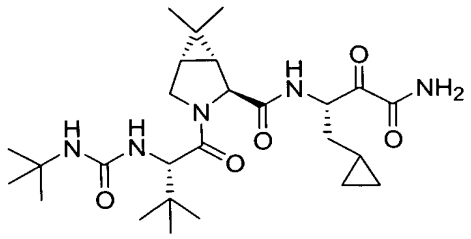


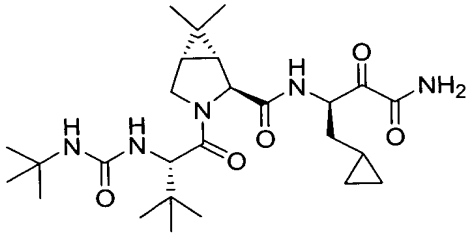
91. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 90, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

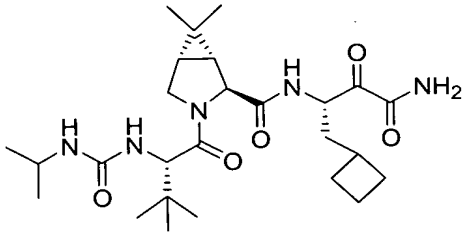
92. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 91, additionally containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

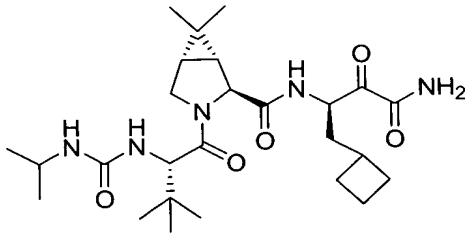
93. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 92, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is alpha-interferon.

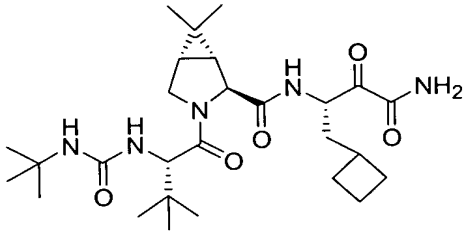
94. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein said compound is selected from the following:

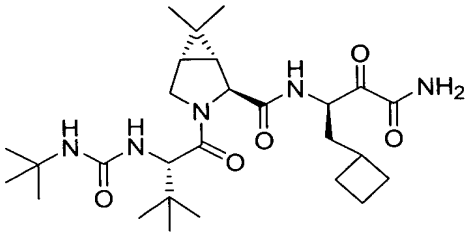


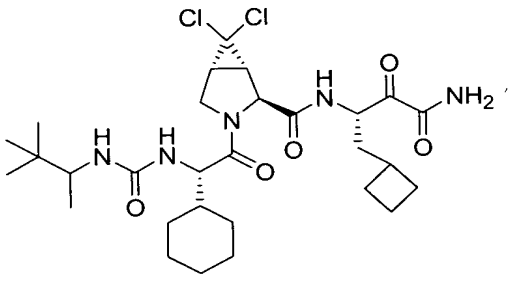


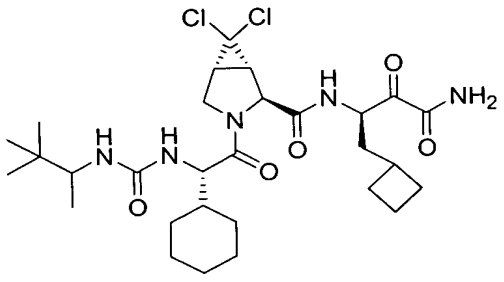


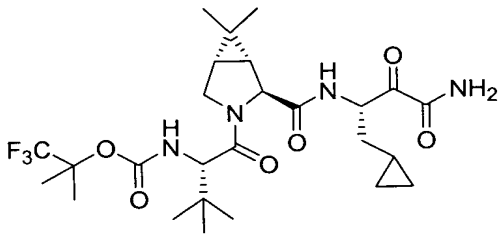


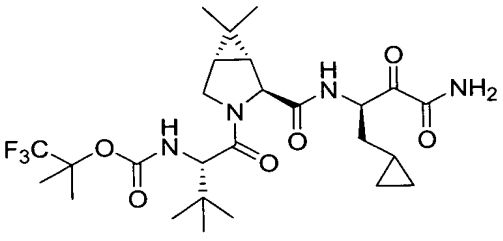


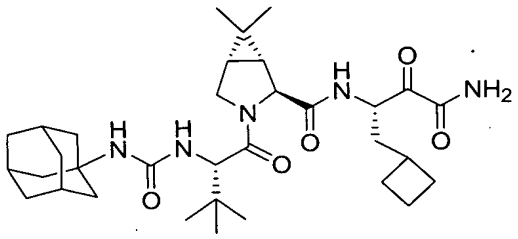


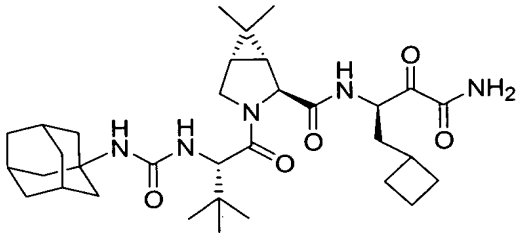


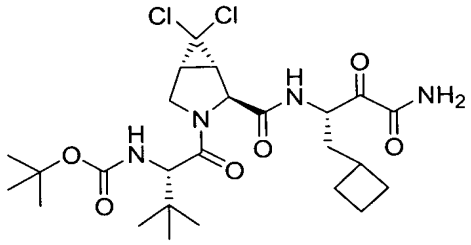


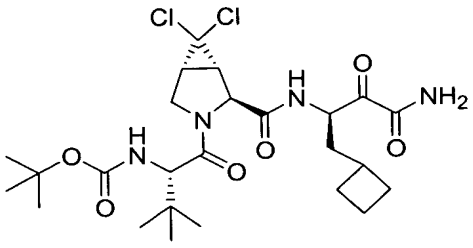


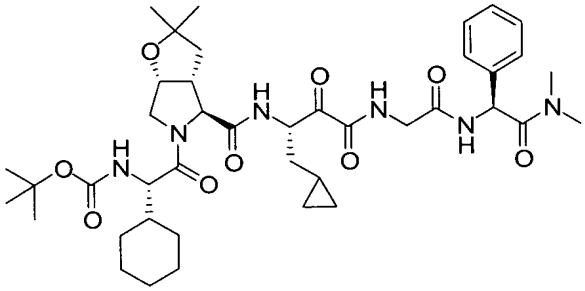


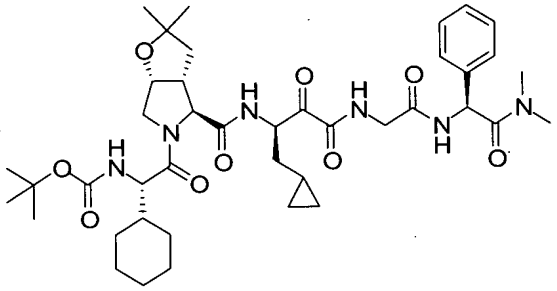


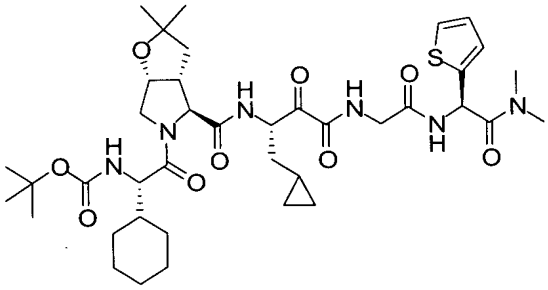


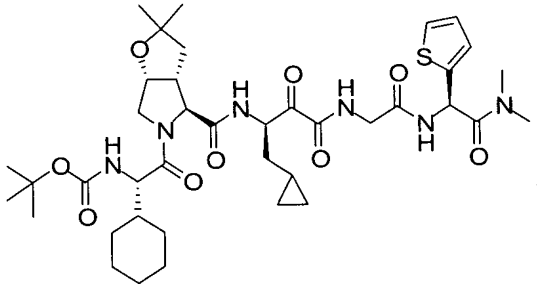


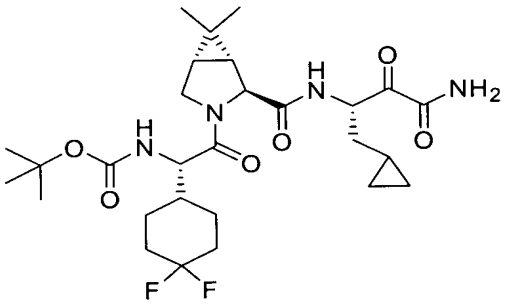


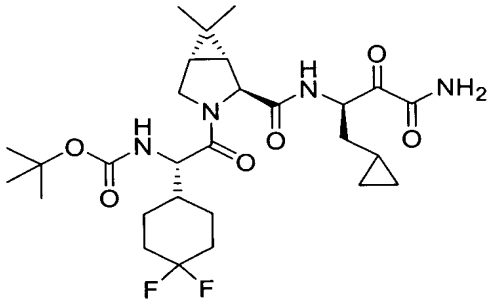


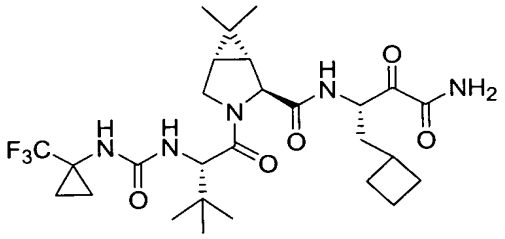


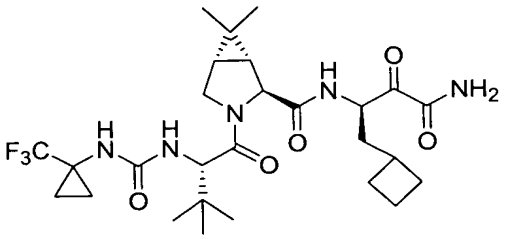












95. (new) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, a compound of claim 1 and an interferon.

96. (new) The method of claim 95, wherein said interferon is alpha-interferon or pegylated interferon.

97. (new) The method of claim 96, wherein said administration is oral or subcutaneous.

98. (new) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, a compound of claim 40 and an interferon.

99. (new) The method of claim 98, wherein said interferon is alpha-interferon or pegylated interferon.

100. (new) The method of claim 99, wherein said administration is oral or subcutaneous.

101. (new) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 63 and an interferon.

102. (new) The method of claim 101, wherein said interferon is alpha-interferon or pegylated interferon.

103. (new) The method of claim 102, wherein said administration is oral or subcutaneous.

104. (new) The method of claim 95, wherein said treatment further comprises administering an antiviral agent.

105. (new) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound of any one of claims 68-89 and an interferon.

106. (new) A method of treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 90 and an interferon.

107. (new) The method of claim 94, further comprising administering an interferon.